





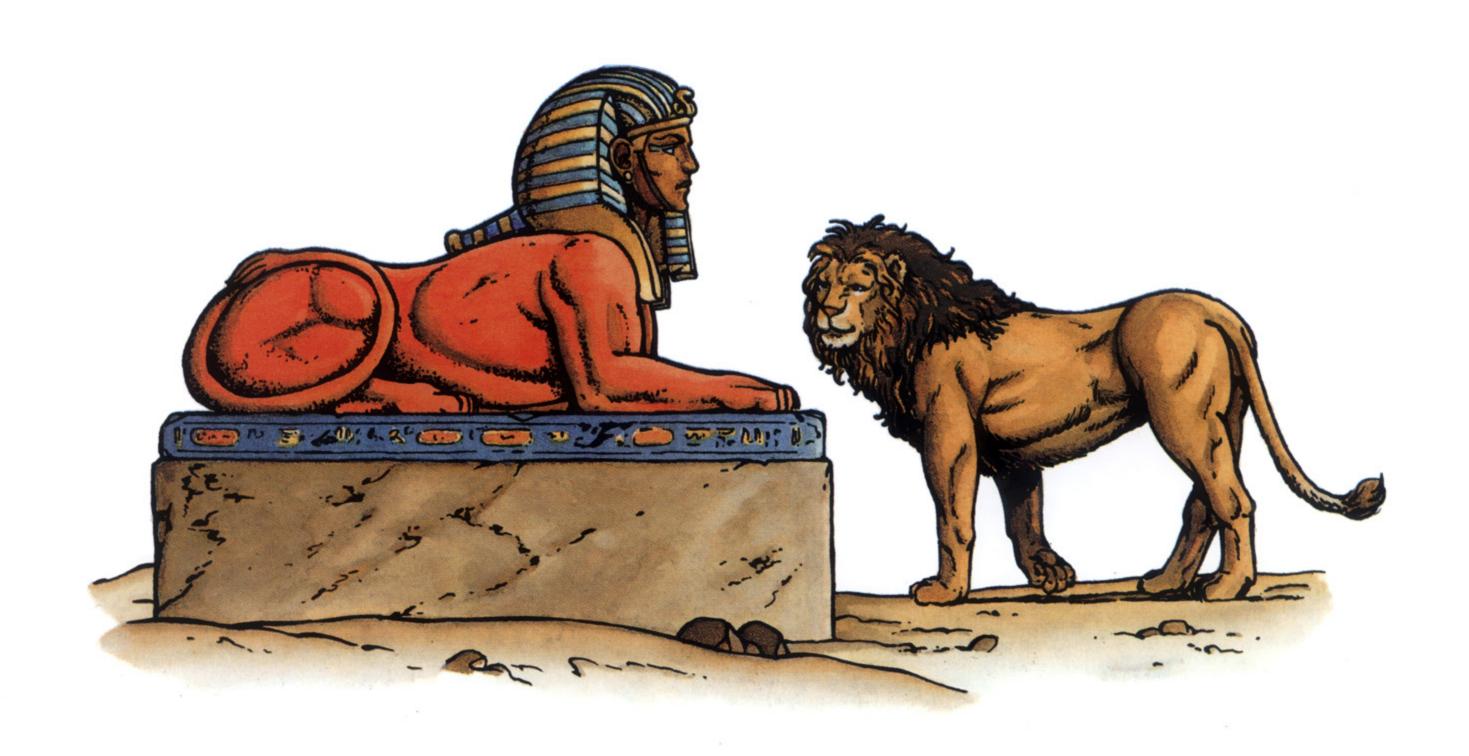
LES AVENTURES D'ORION

LE PHARAON

CHRISTOPHE SIMON

JACQUES MARTIN

COLORIAGES: MAUD CHAPELLE AVEC UNE PARTICIPATION DE VINCENT HENIN

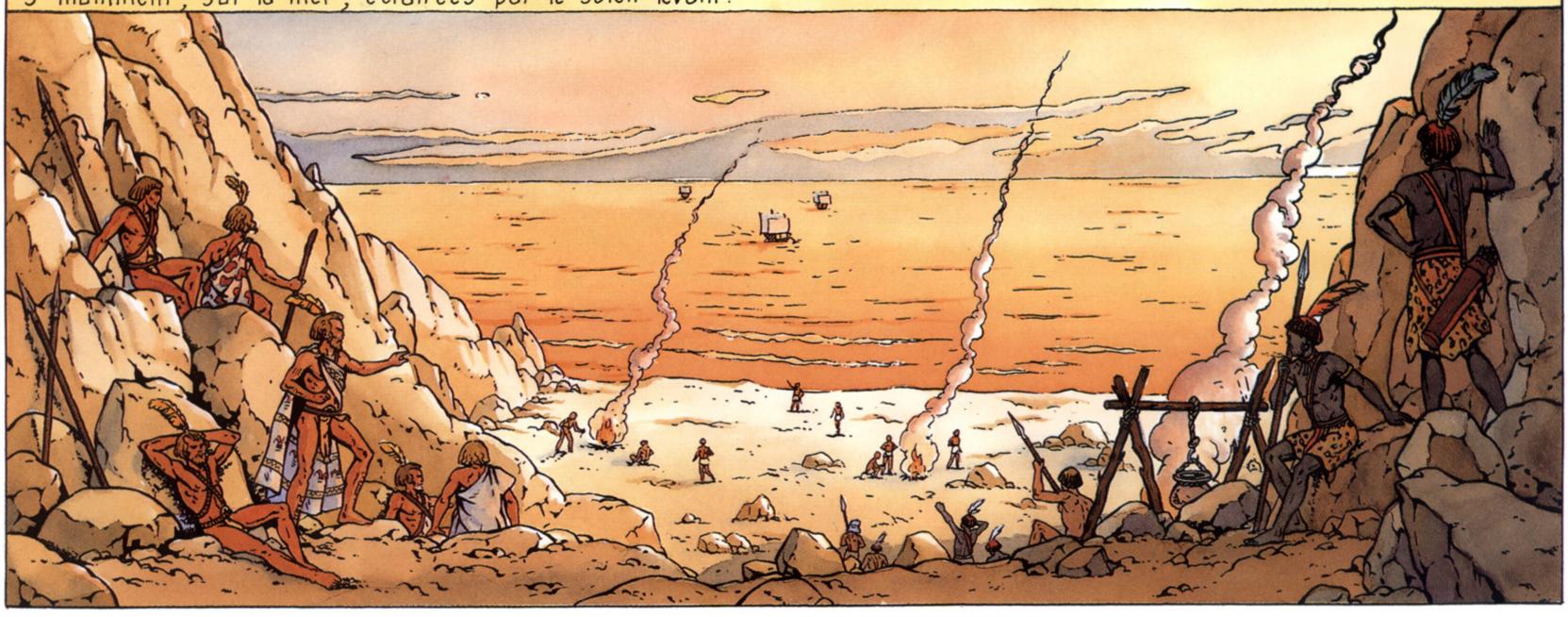




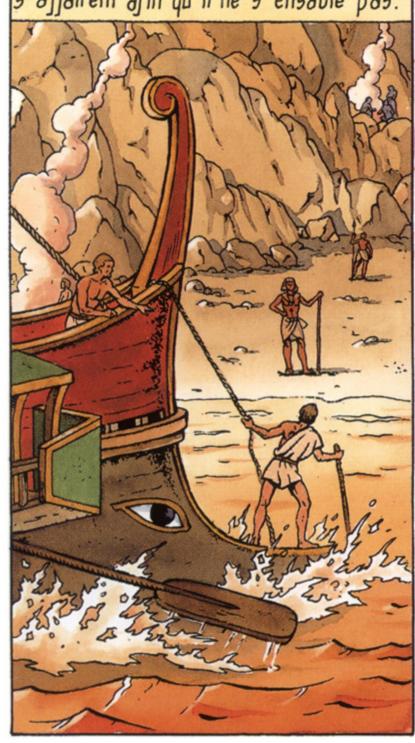
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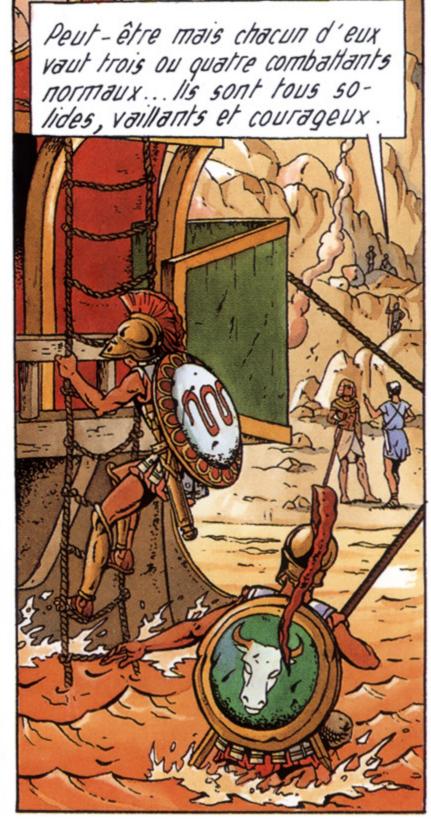
Dépôt légal : février 1998 ISBN : 2-205-04522-9 Il y a longtemps que des feux brûlent au fond de cette crique de la côte méditerranéenne de l'Egypte. Protégés par des flancs abrupts, des soldats lybiens et de sombres archers venant de Nubie se réveillent à peine lorsque trois voiles s'illuminent, sur la mer, éclairées par le soleil levant.

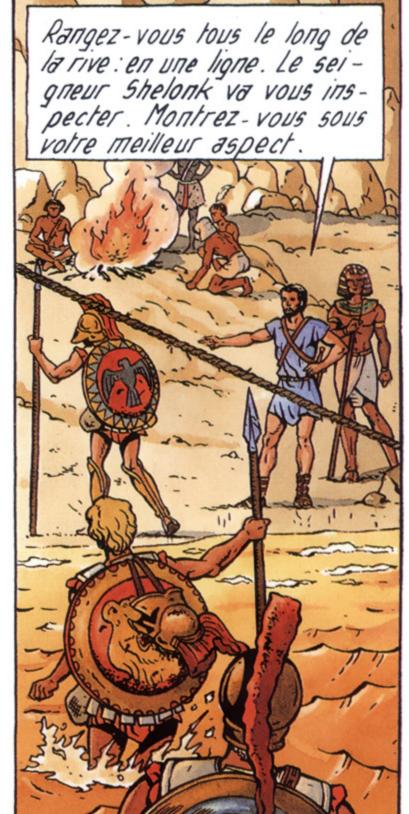


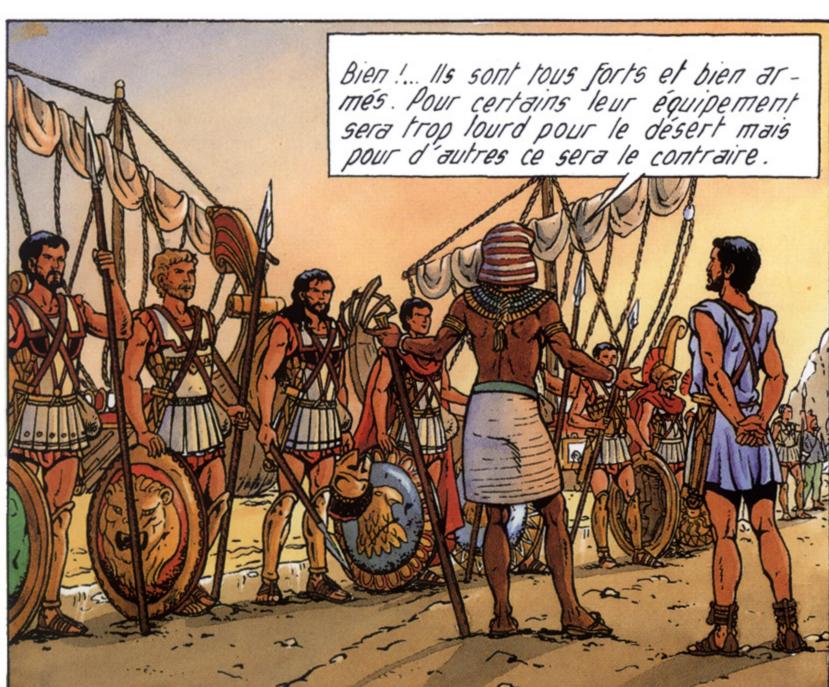
Puis, après un temps, le premier navire accoste alors que quelques marins s'affairent afin qu'il ne s'ensable pas.

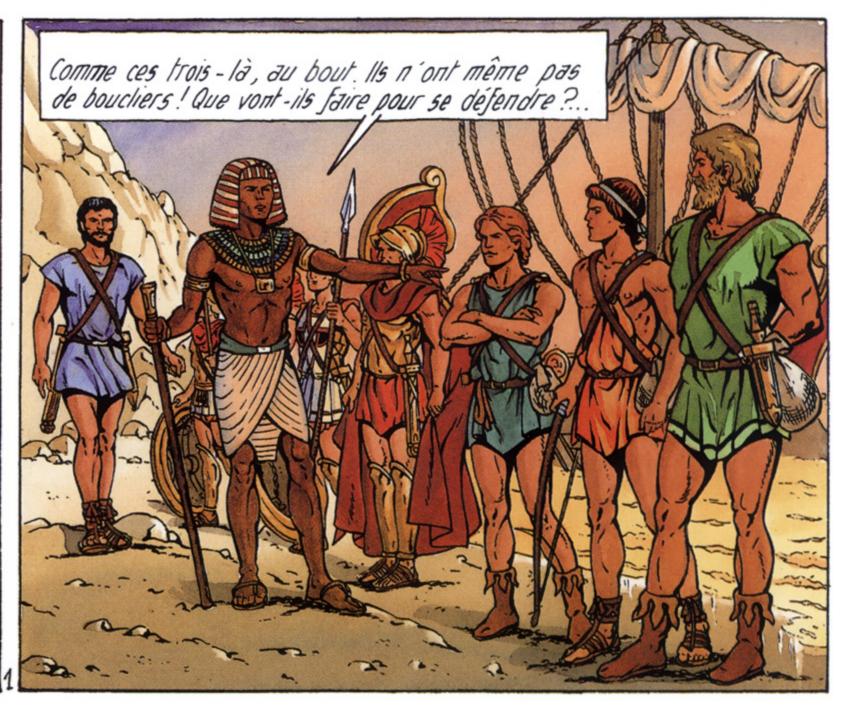


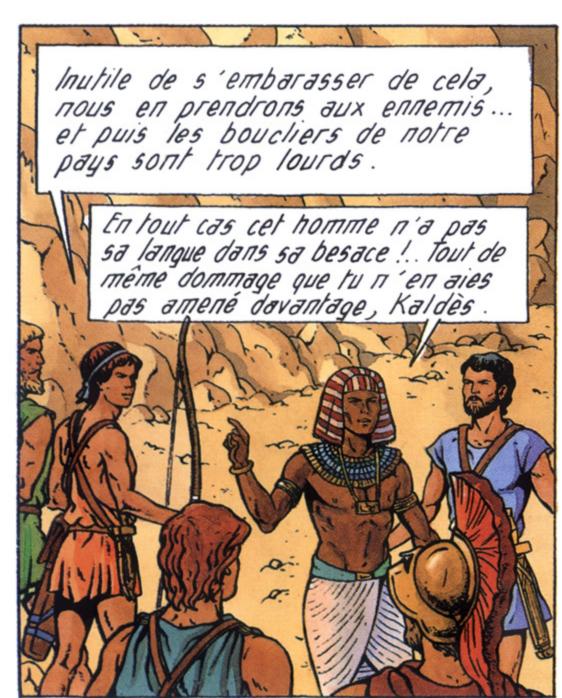


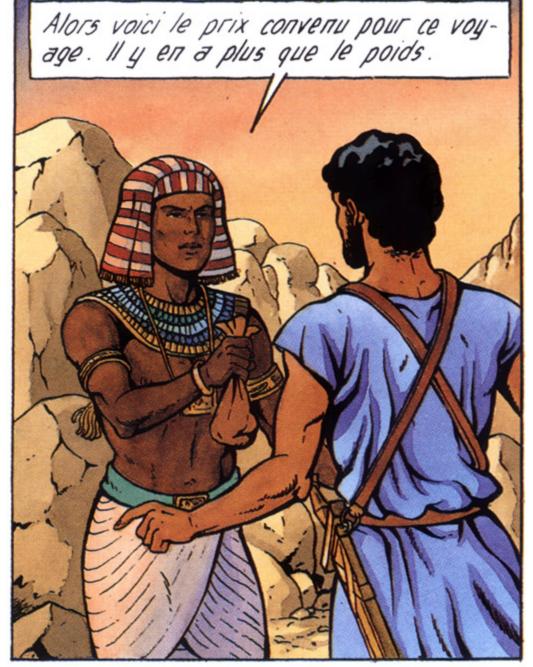










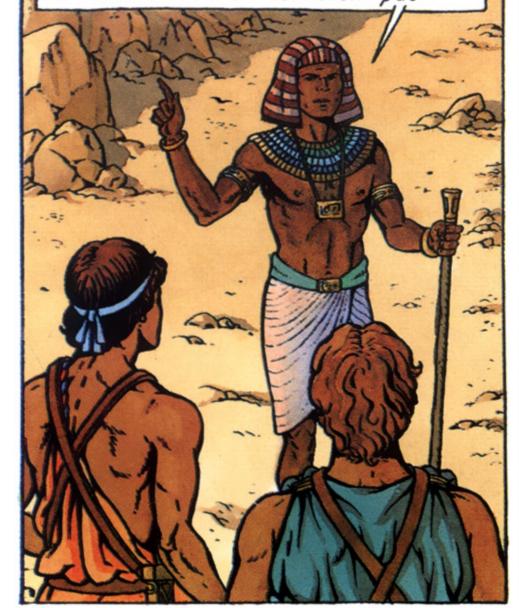




Soldats! Vous êtes considérés comme les meilleurs mercenaires qui soient, c'est pourquoi, par faveur, vous serez payés une pièce d'argent d'Athènes par jour, somme que vous recevrez tous les mois. Méprisez, comme nous, la monnaie, le darique, des gens qui occupent notre pays : les Perses. Vous êtes engagés pour un an afin de former l'armée du jeune pharaon Amyrtée, le successeur de celui qui a fait trembler l'envahisseur. Grâce à vous nous réussirons et notre force sera la mobilité et la ruse. Lorsque nous battrons l'ennemi vous aurez droit au pillage mais seule-ment quand il s'agira d'étrangers ou de collaborateurs des occupants. La langue partée entre nous sera le grec mais profitez de cette opportunité pour apprendre l'égyptien auprès de nos soldats, principalement des Nubiens qui constituent le gros de notre armée.

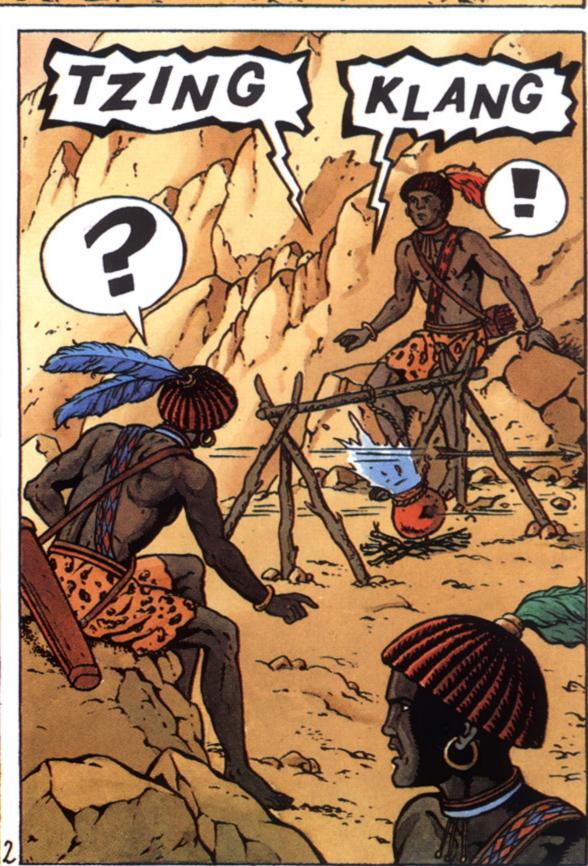


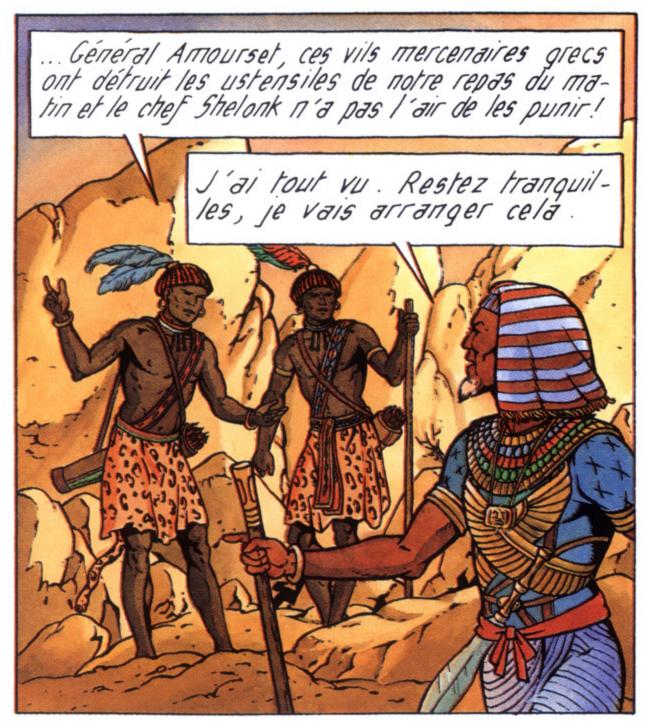
Laissez vos casques attachés à votre ceinture car la chaleur du désert est très forte. Nous vous distribuerons des coiffures de toile qui vous protègeront efficacement du soleil, ainsi que des gourdes en peau de chèvre... Toi, toujours, où trouveras -tu des flèches lorsque ton carquois sera vide? Les Nubiens ne t'en donneront pas.

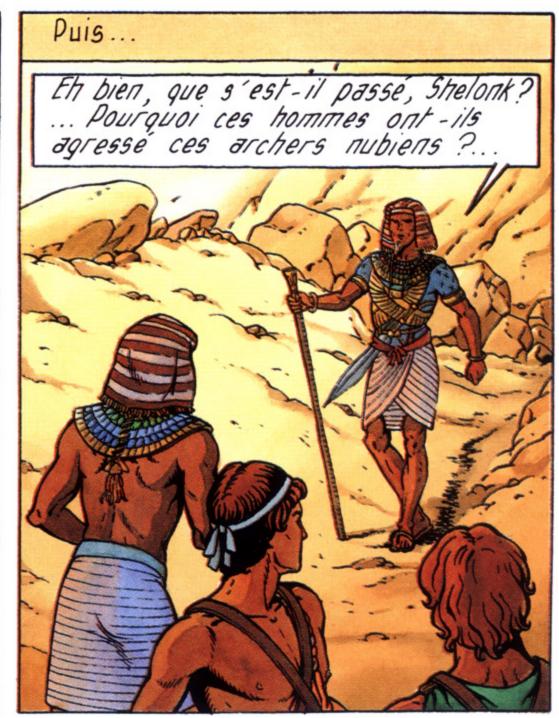






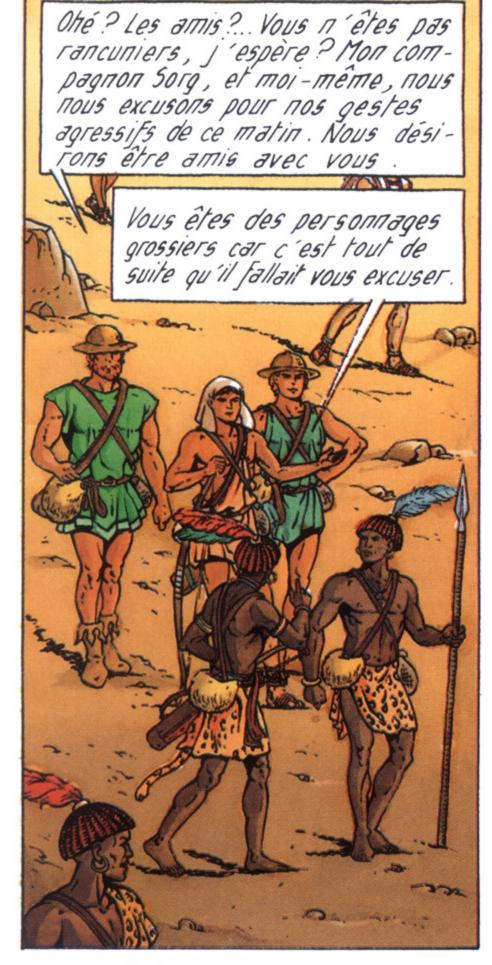






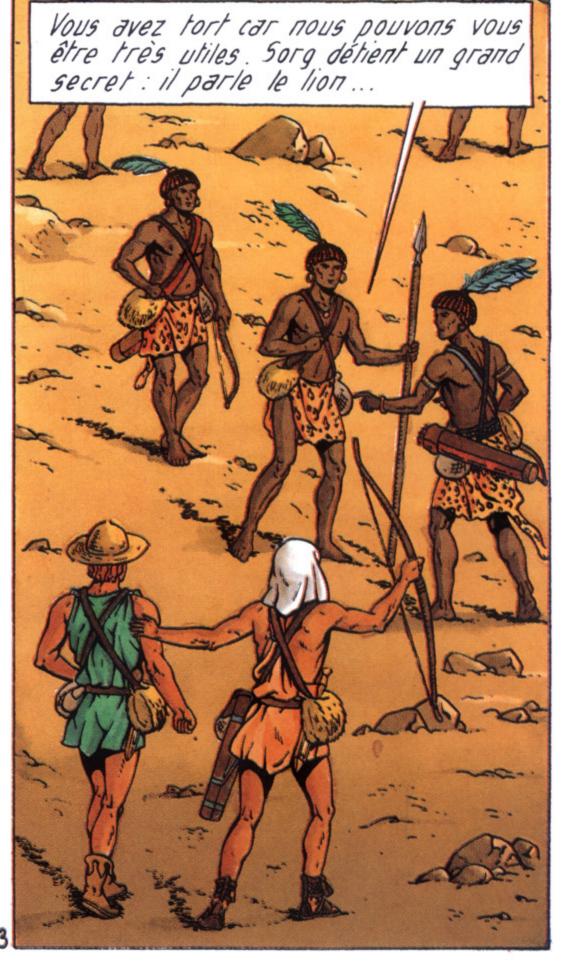






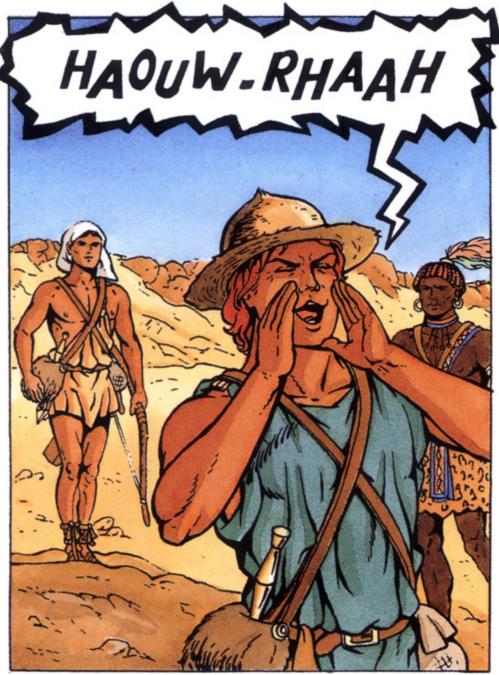






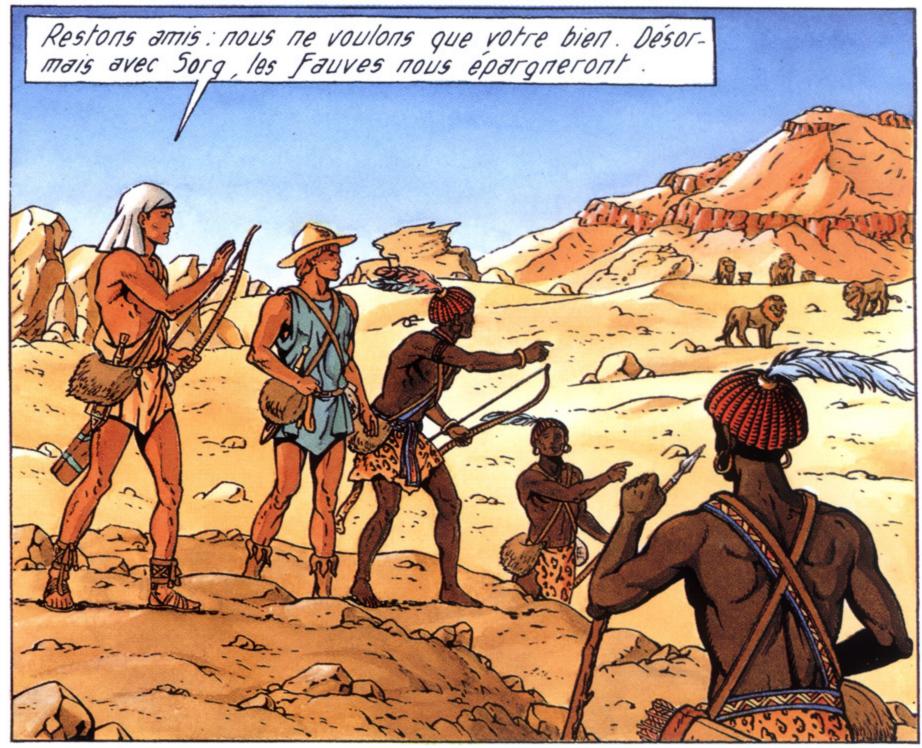
(1) Le soleil.

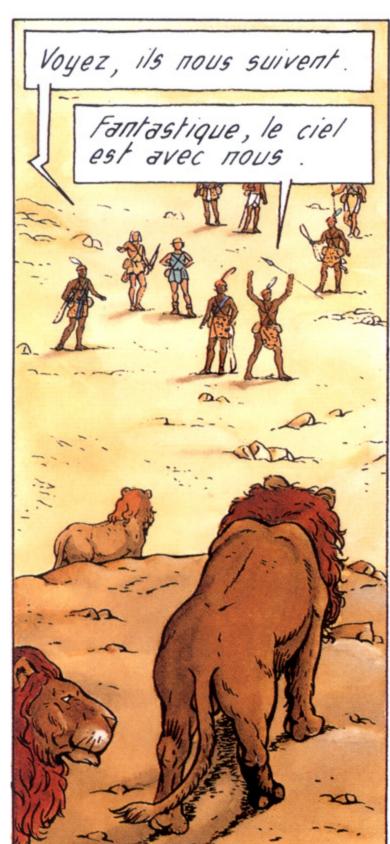


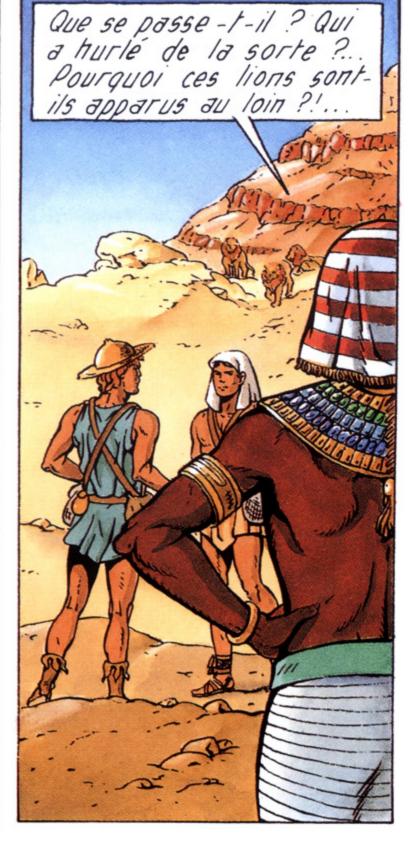










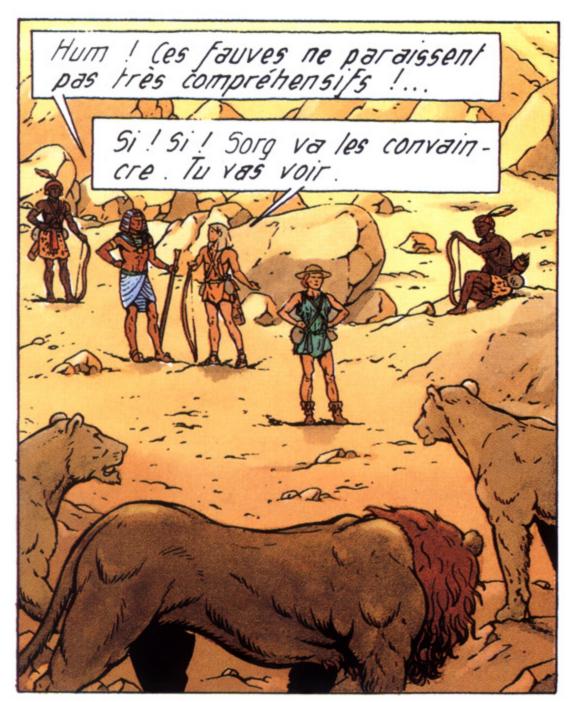






En effet! Comme c'est étrange!..

En bien si tu parles le lion

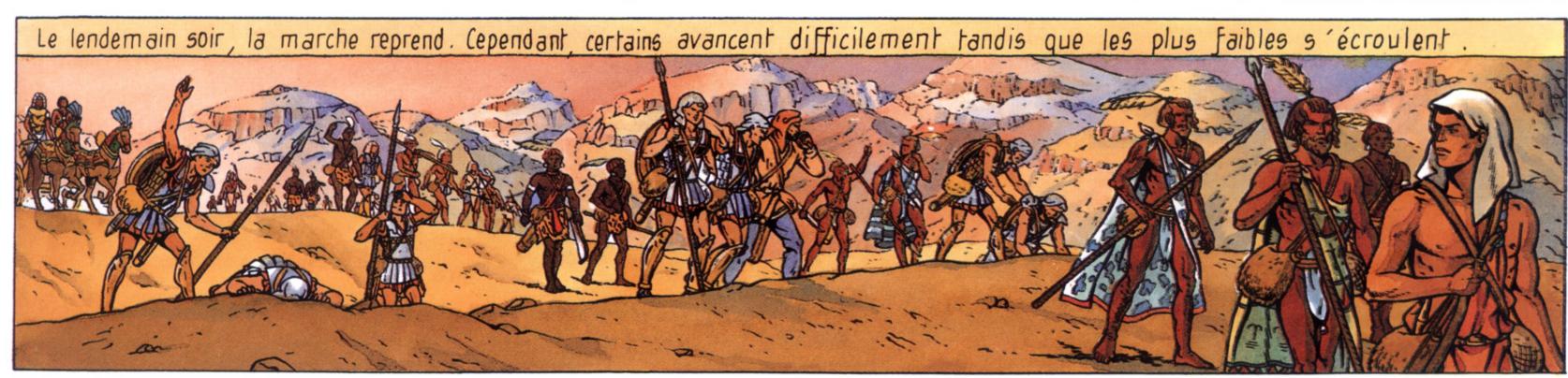


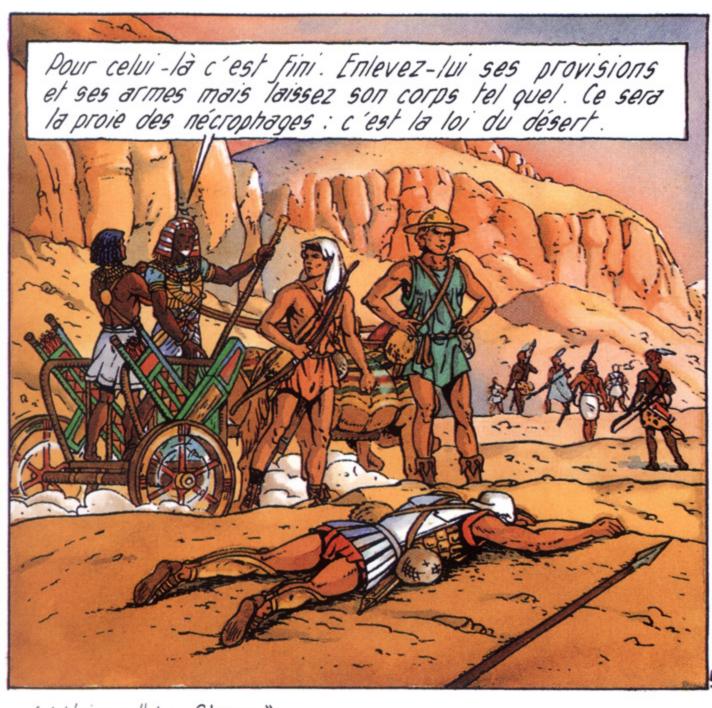


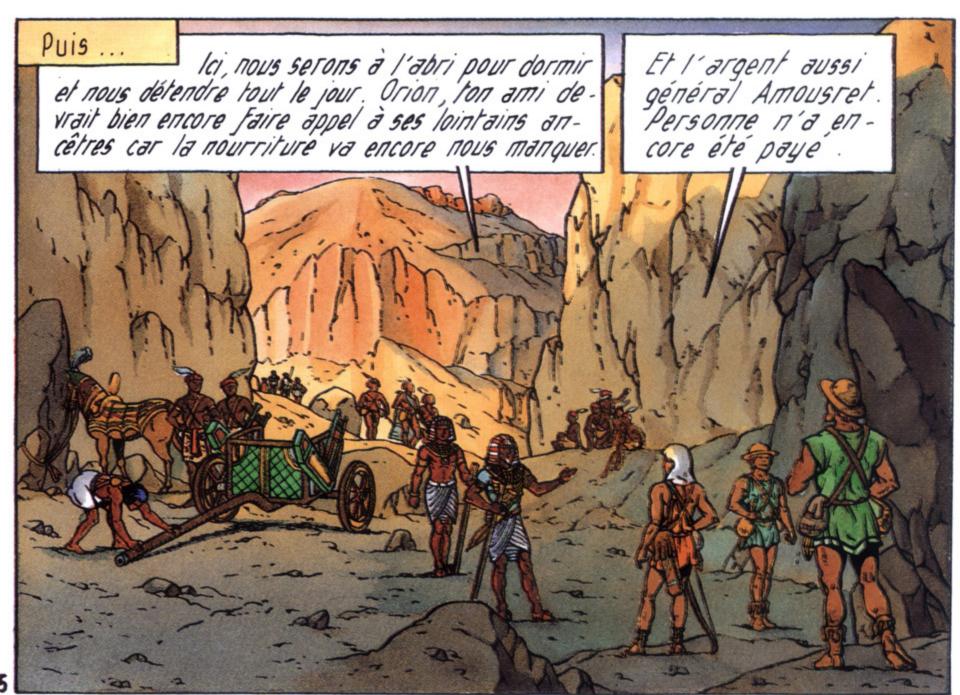




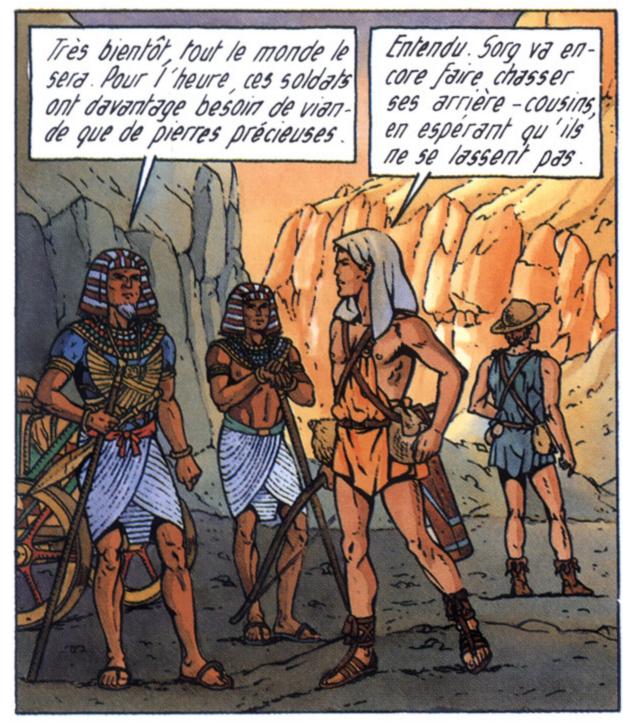






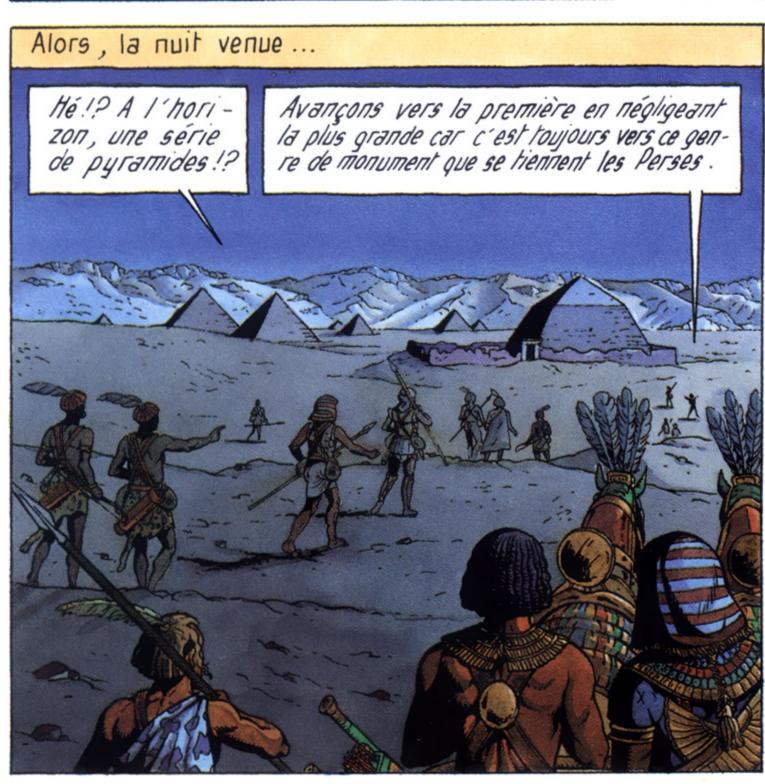


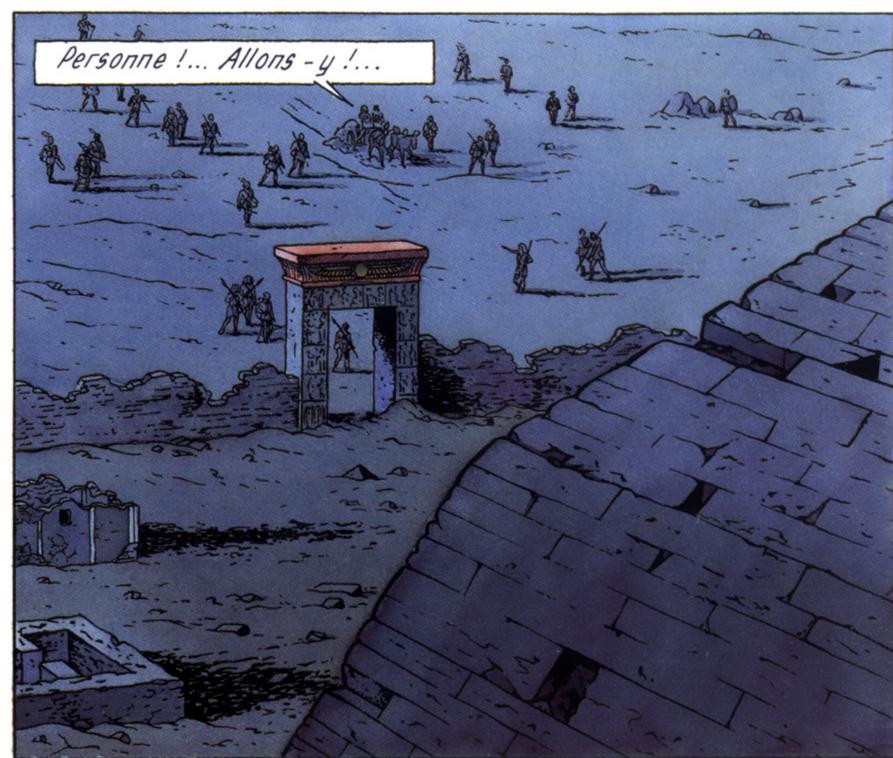
(1) Voir : "Le Styx ".







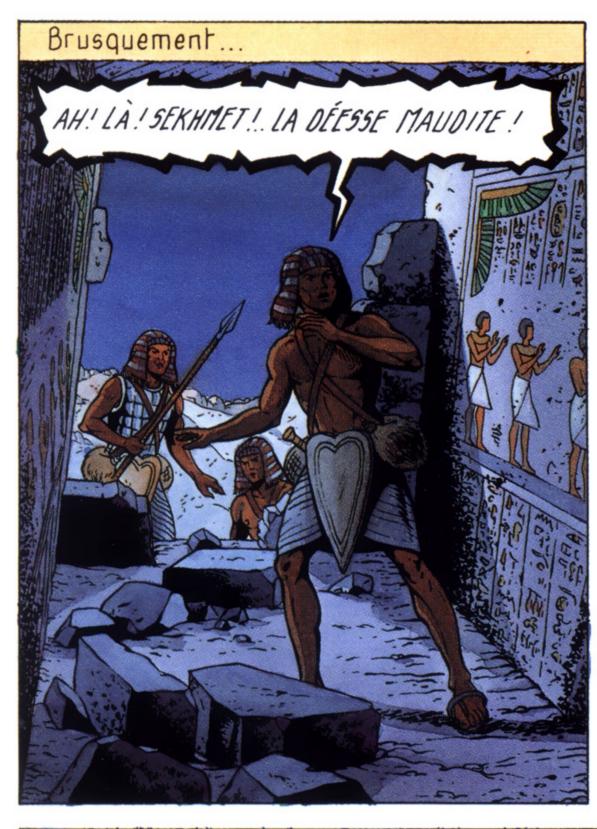




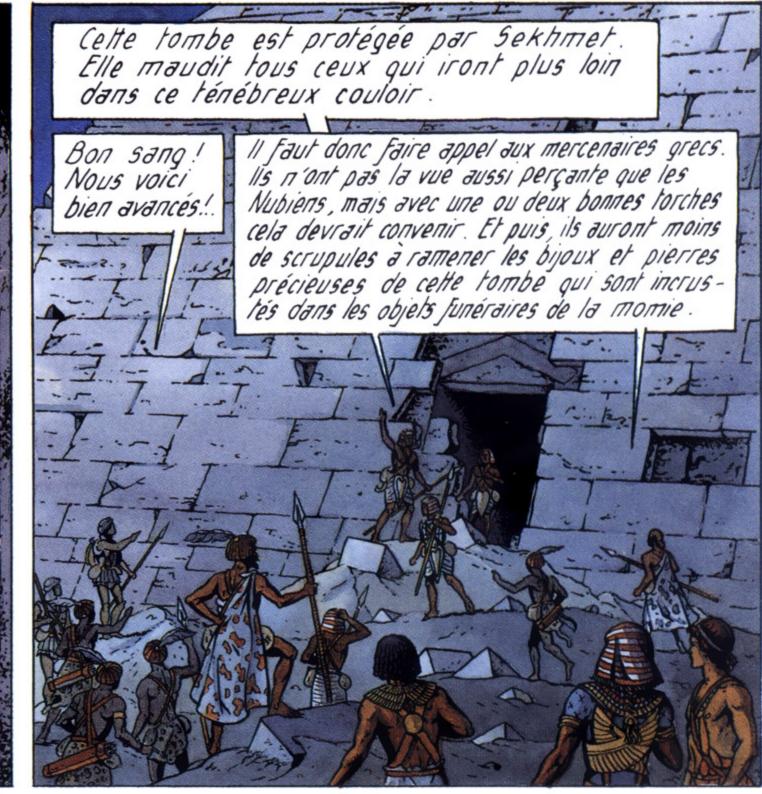












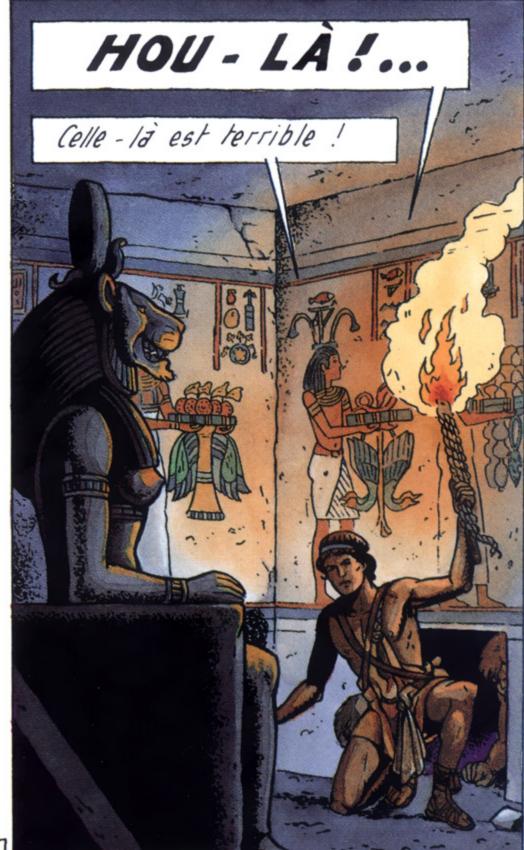




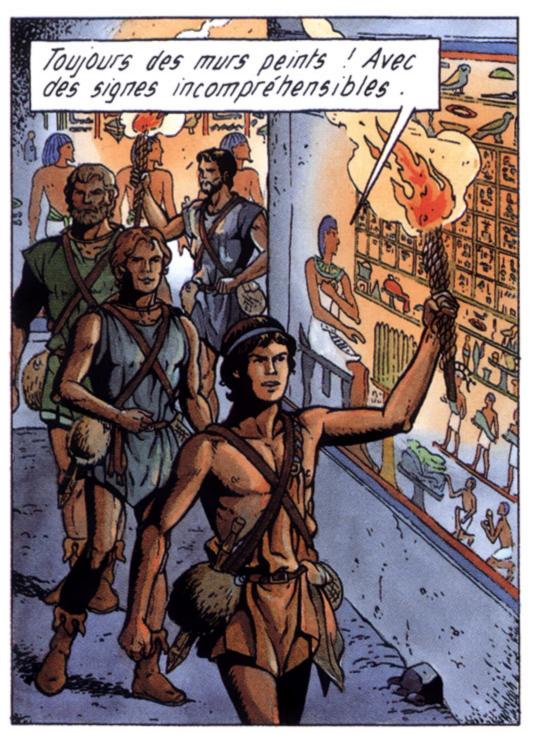






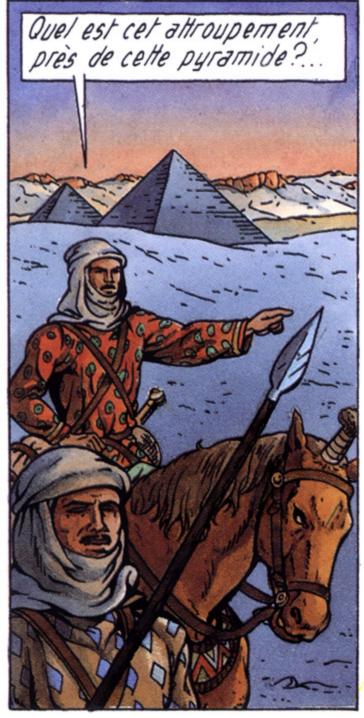




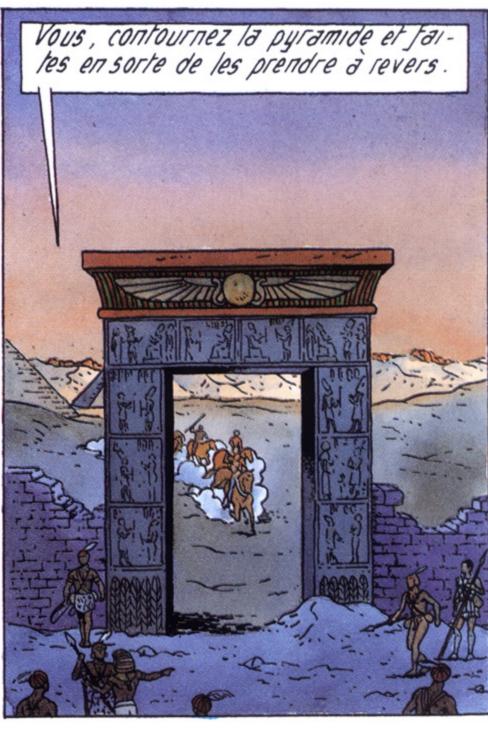






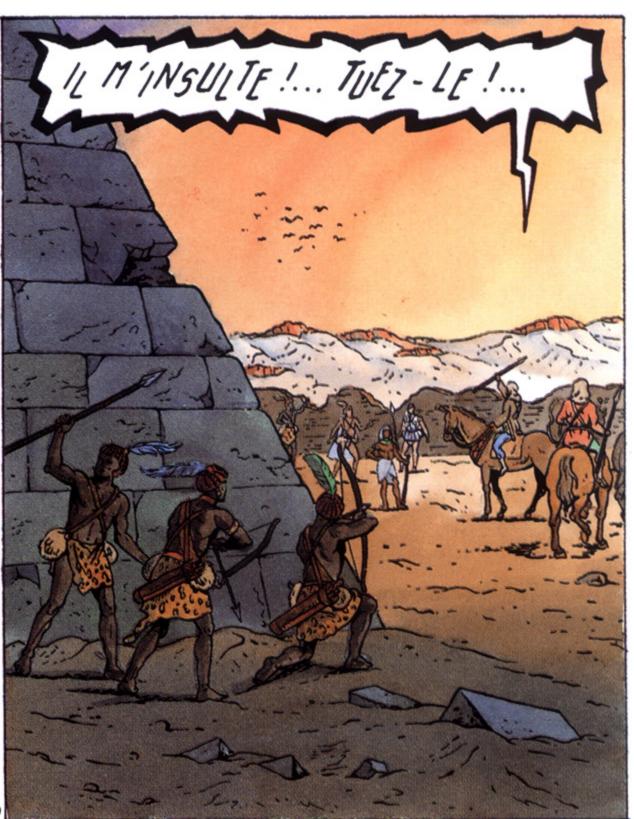


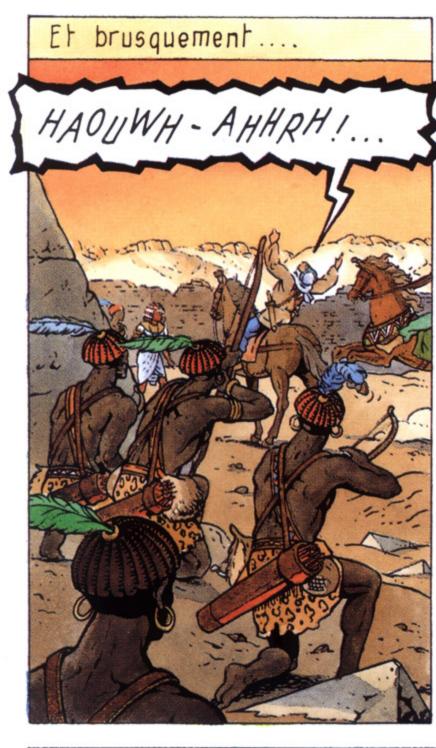


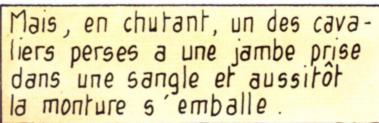




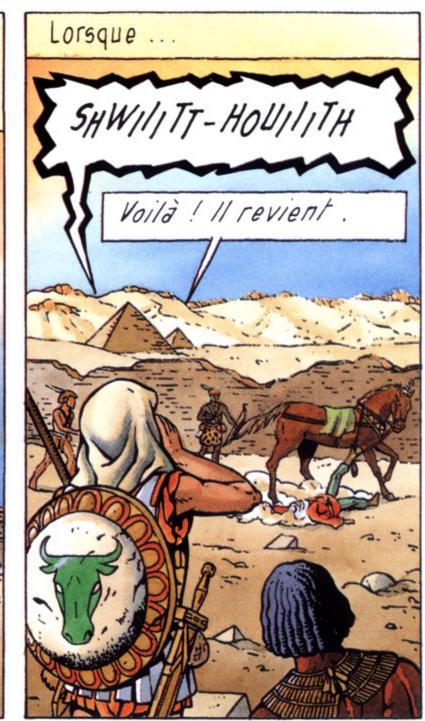




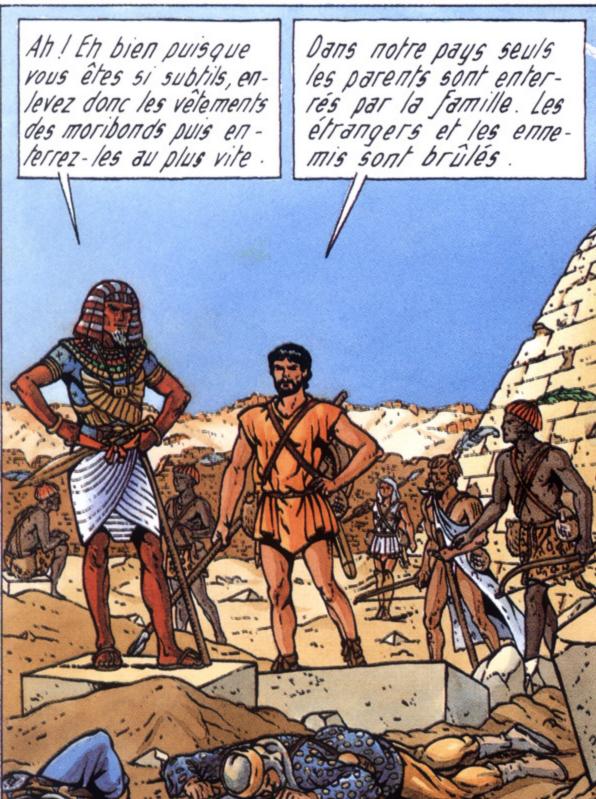




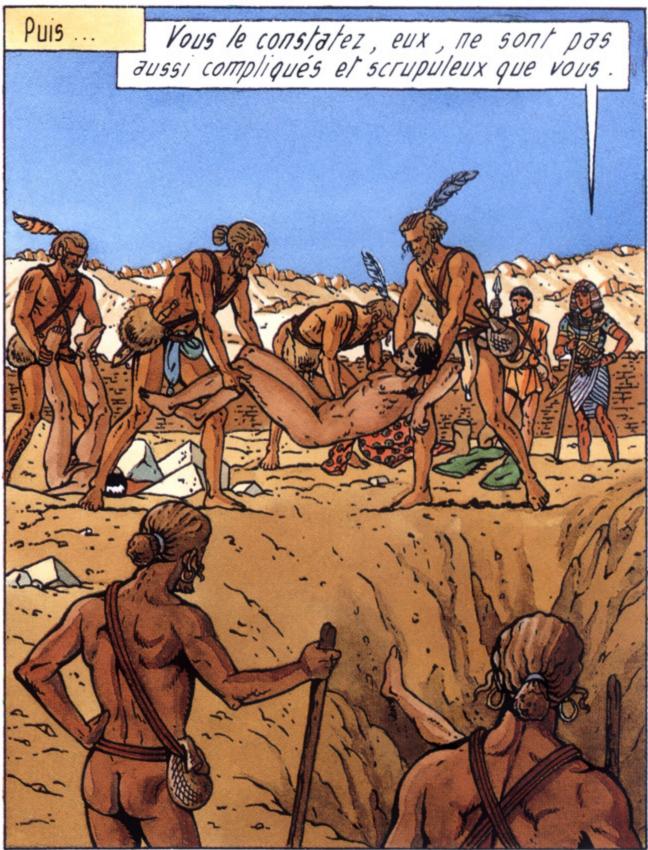


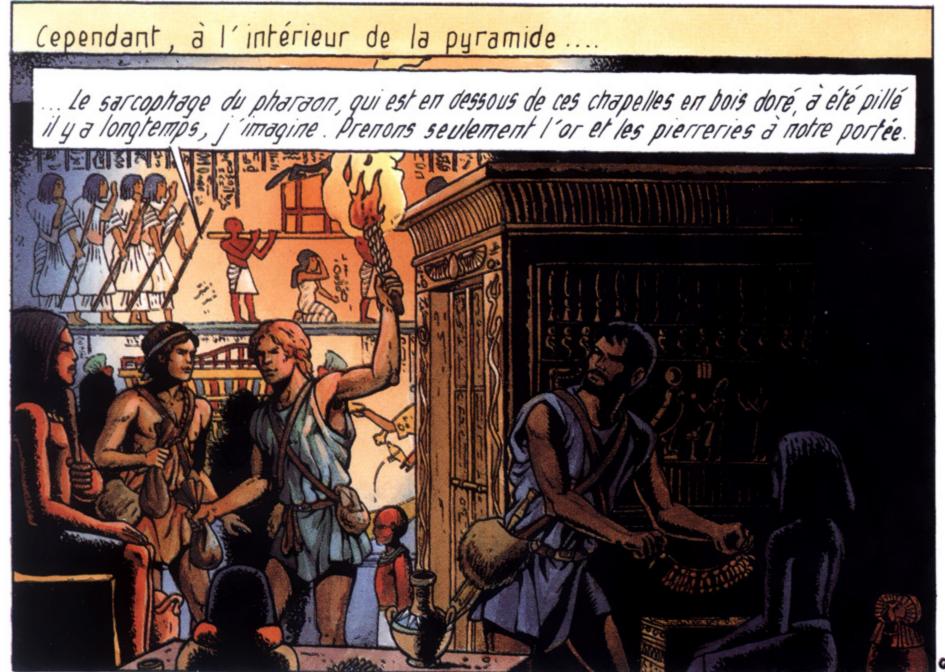








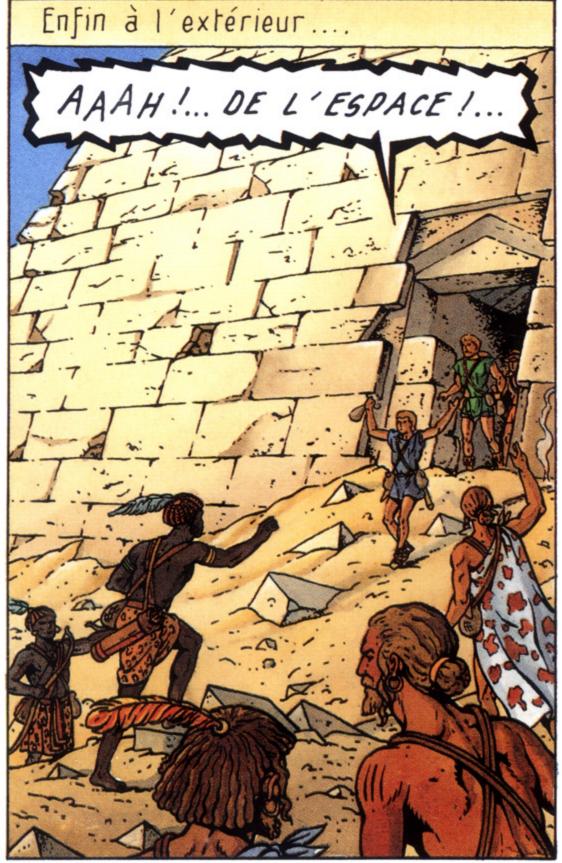




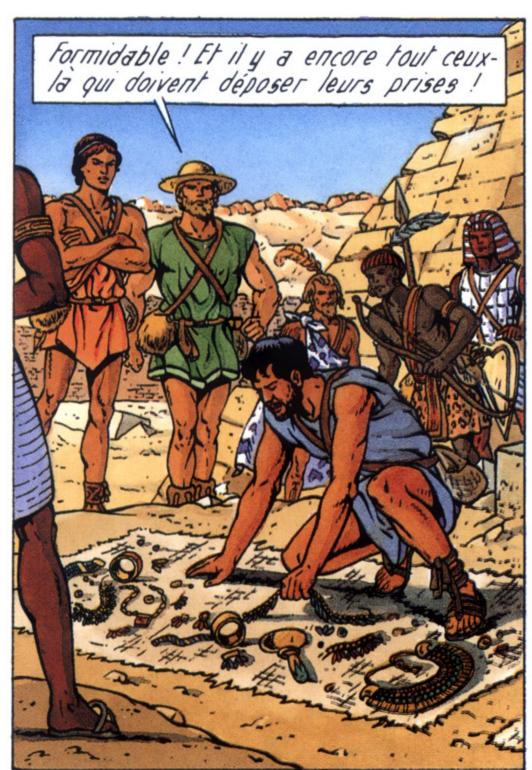




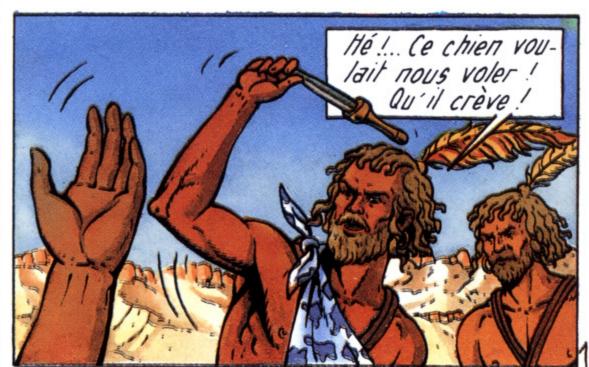






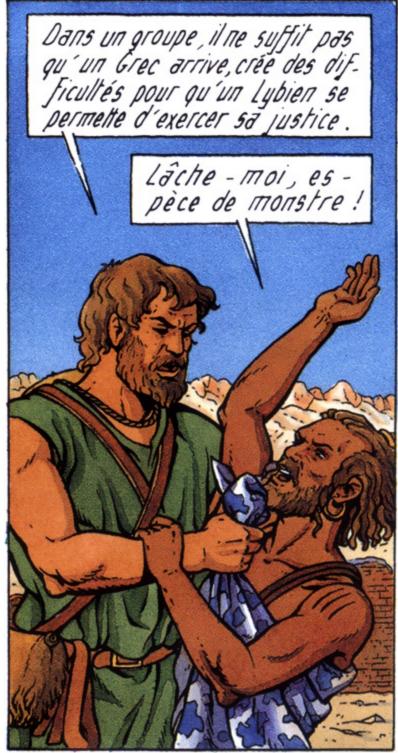








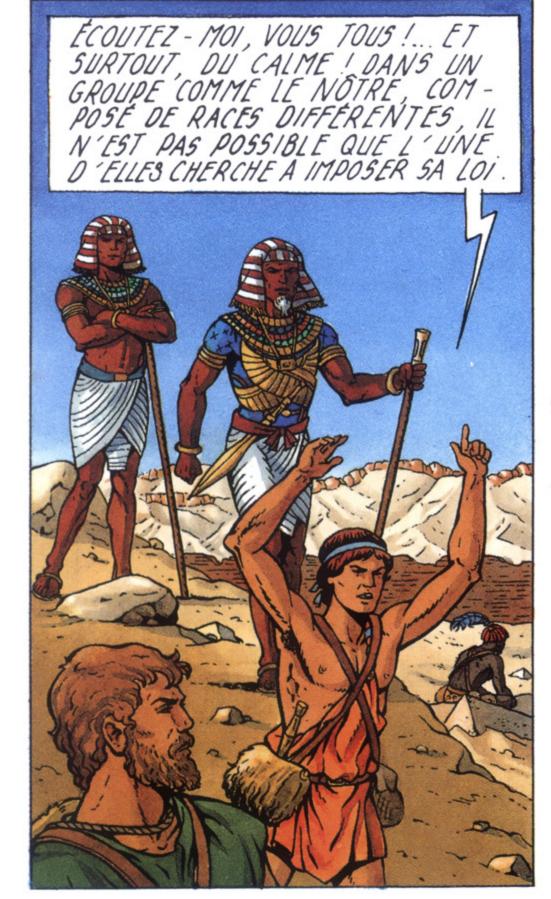




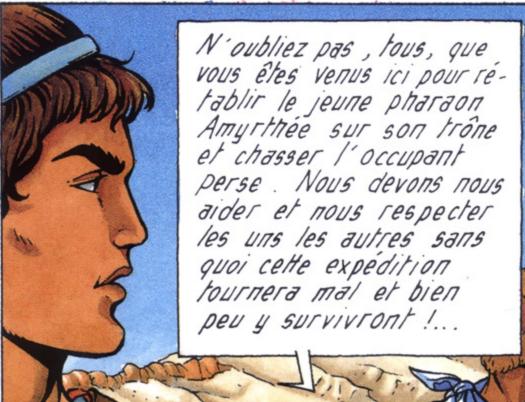








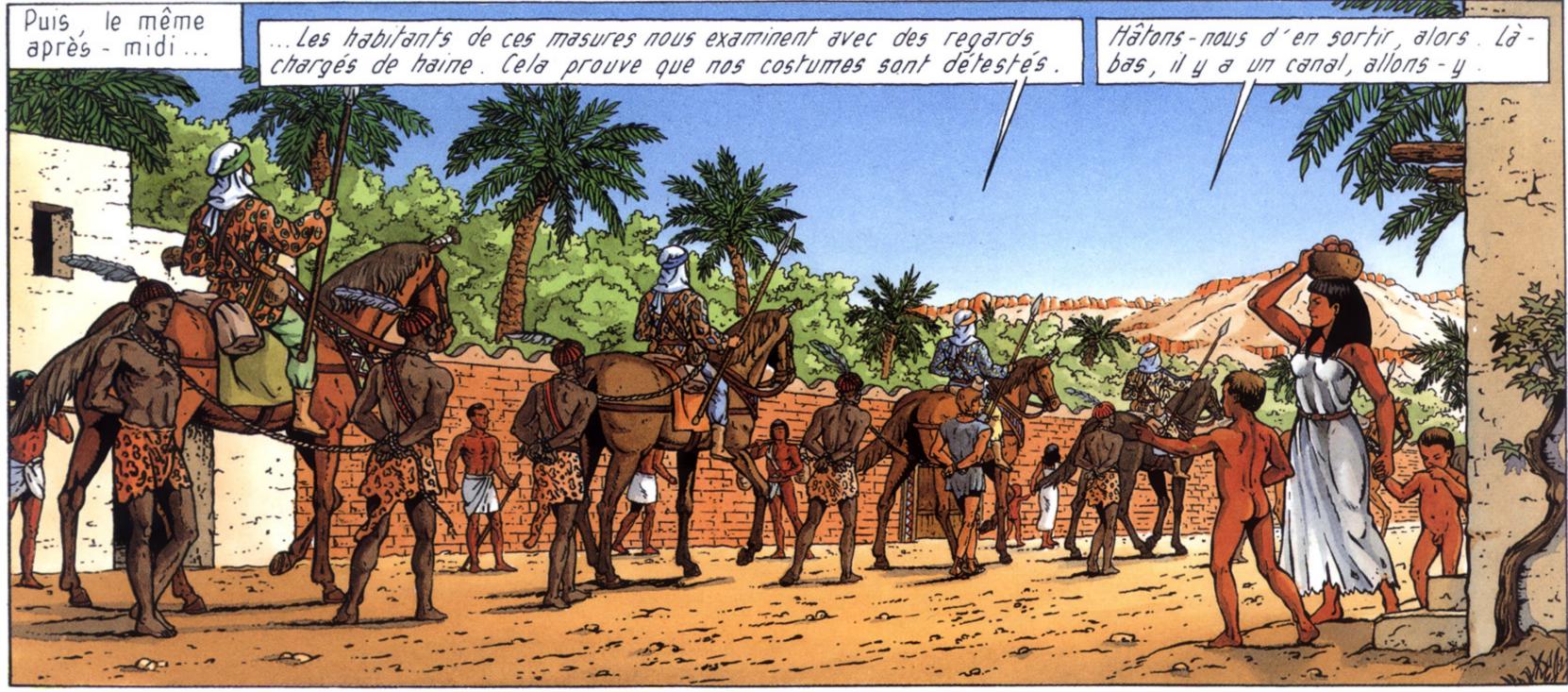


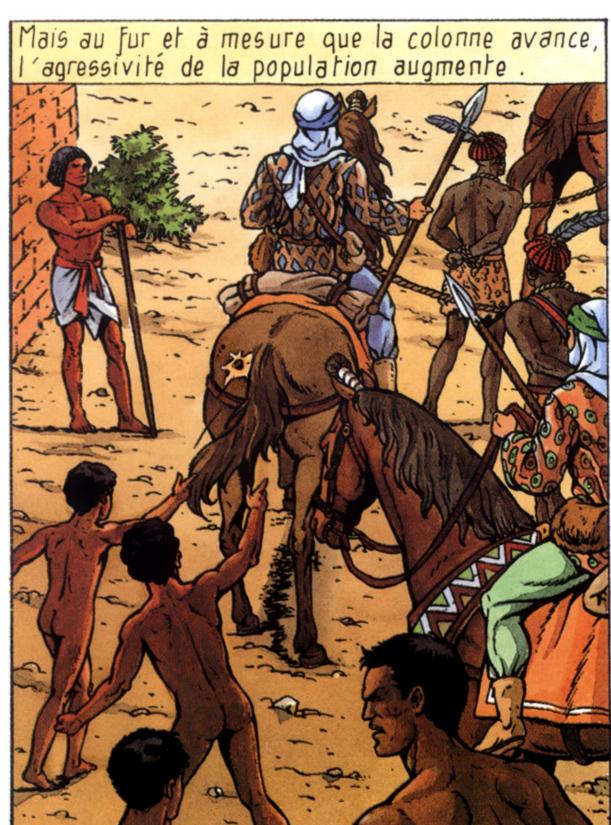


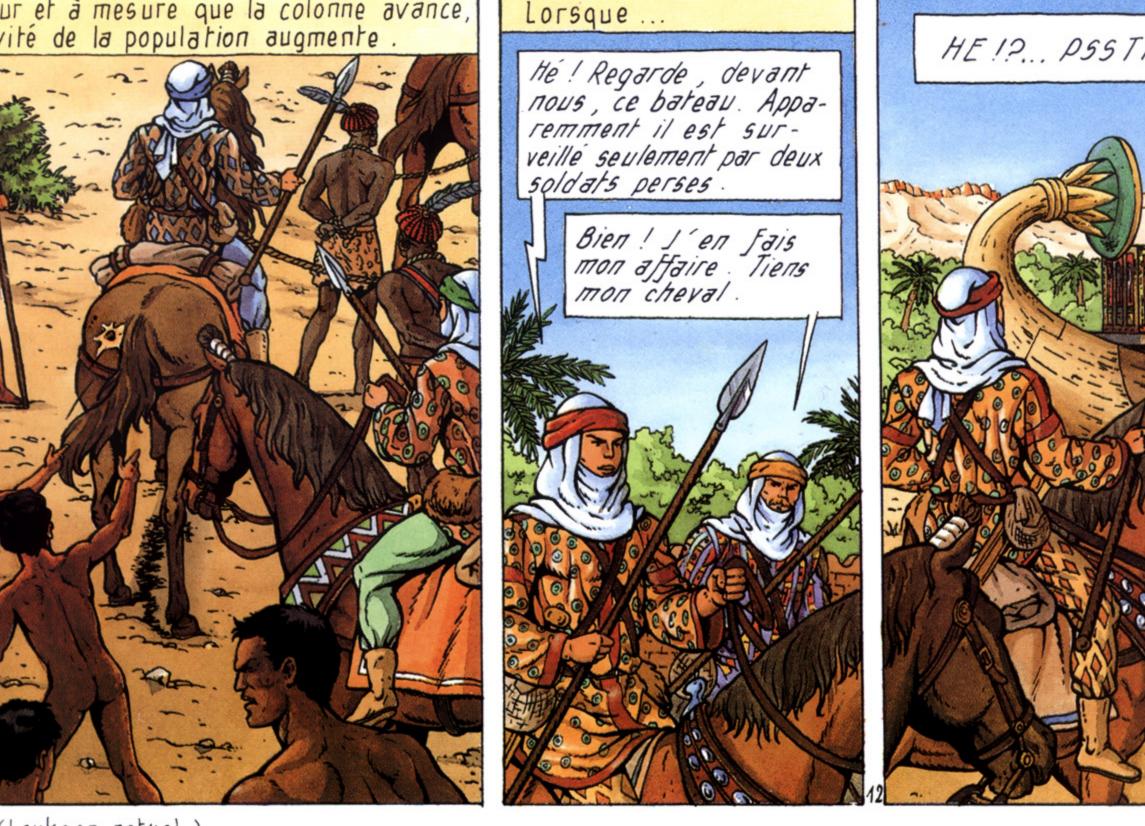
Bravo, jeune homme. Bravo!... C'est tout juste les paroles que j'allais prononcer. Tu m'as devancé, le Grec, soit. Mais la prochaine fois, laisse-moi régler ce problème sans quoi tu créeras, à ton tour, cette confusion que tu condamnes.

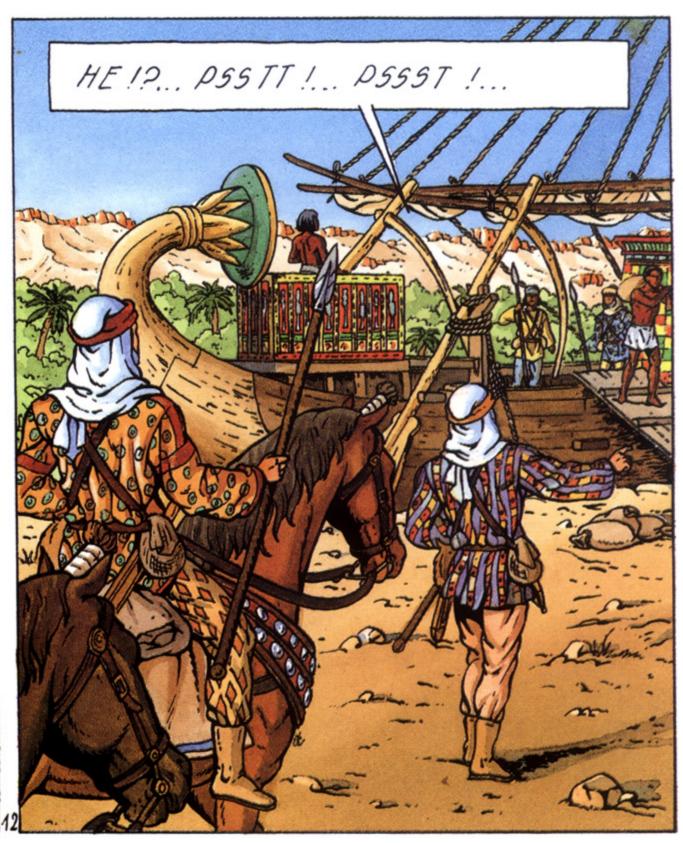




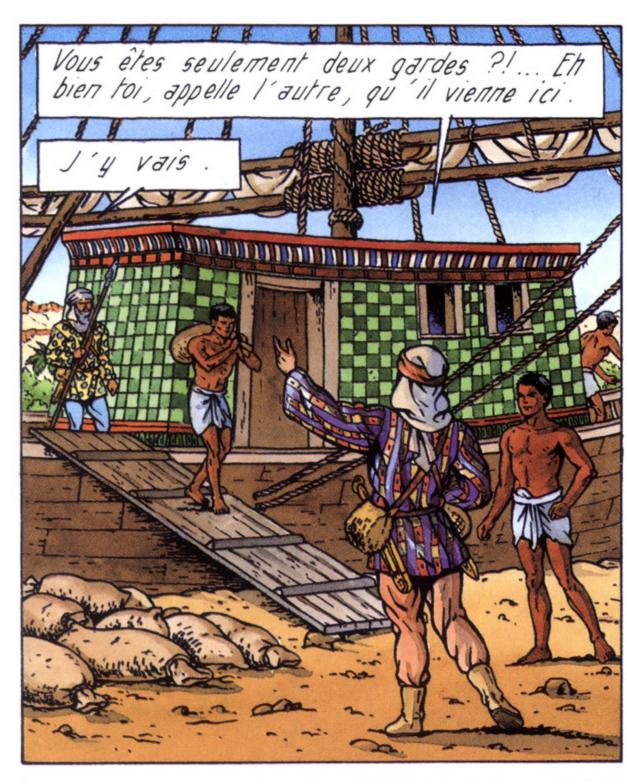








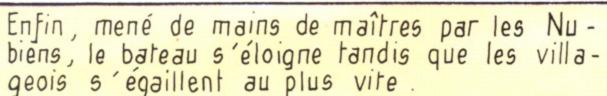
Ouaset (Louksor actuel)

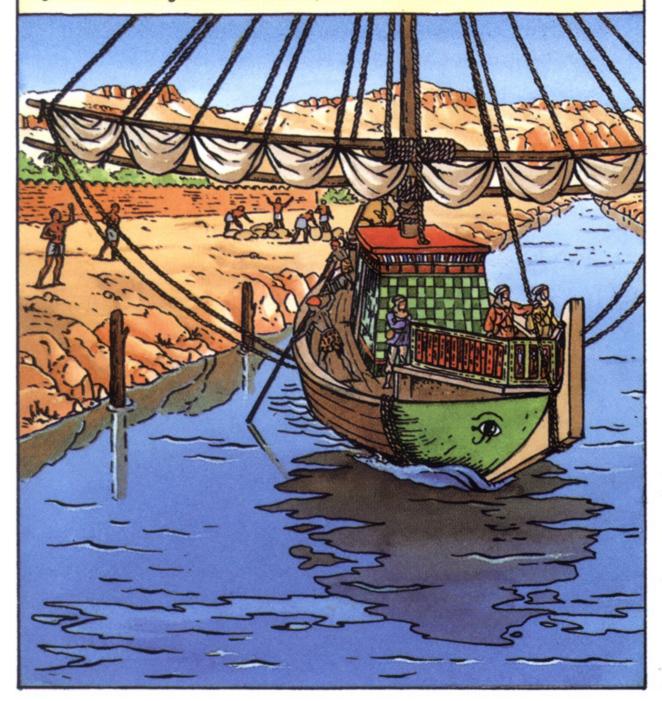




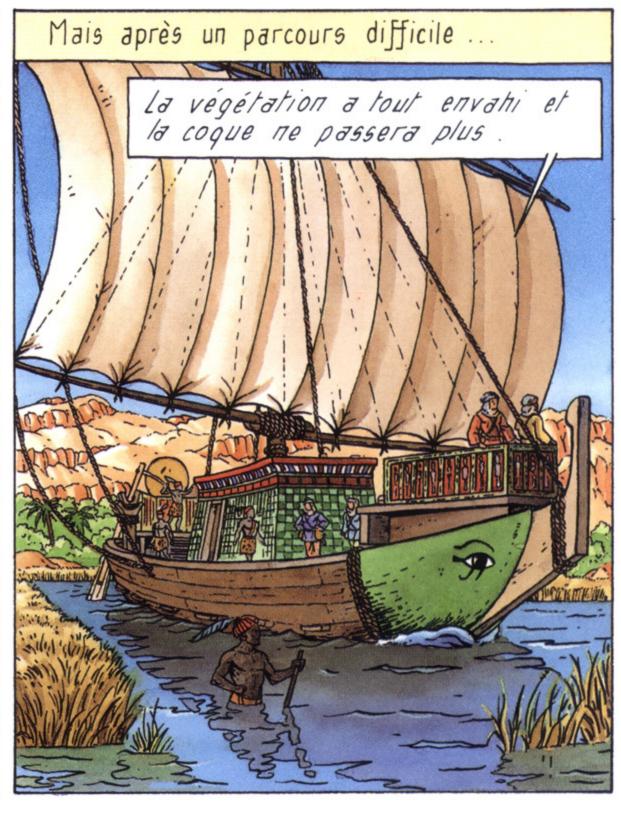




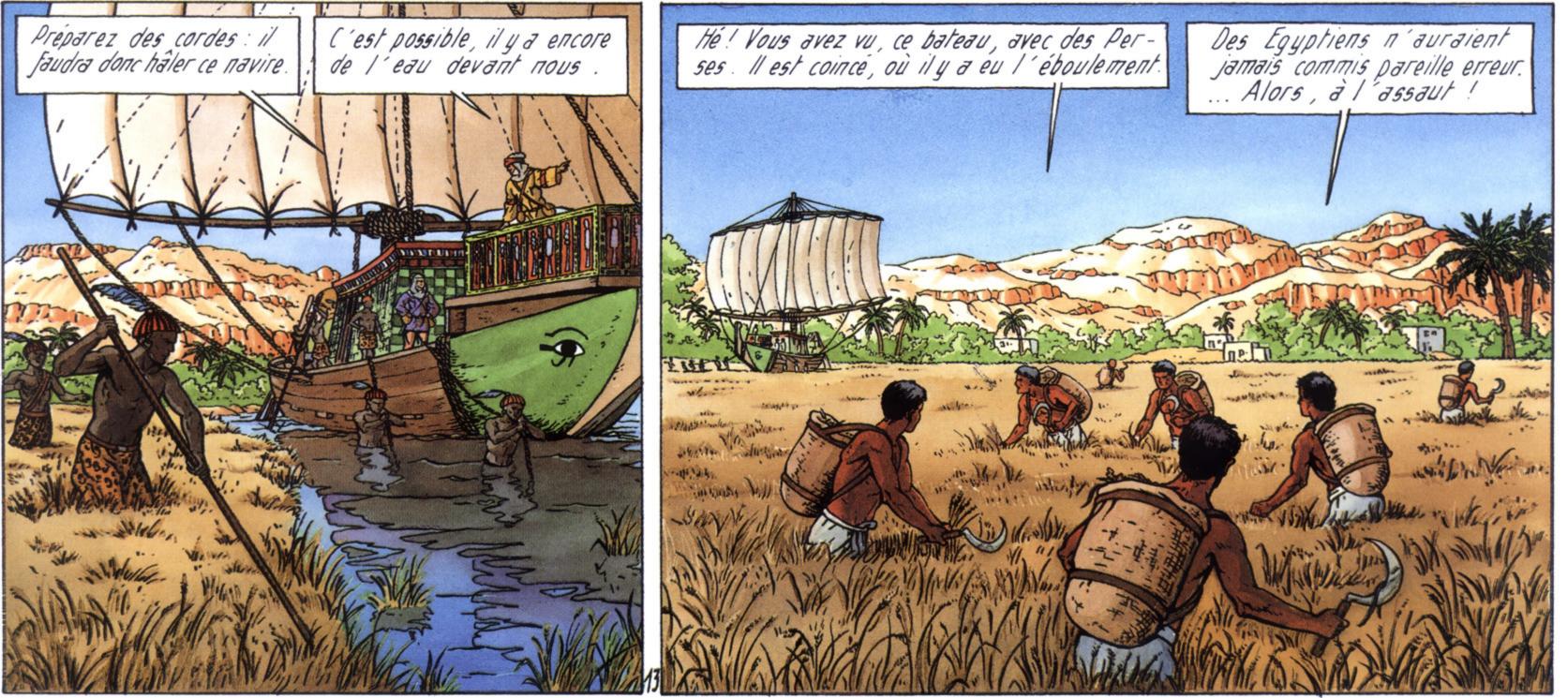


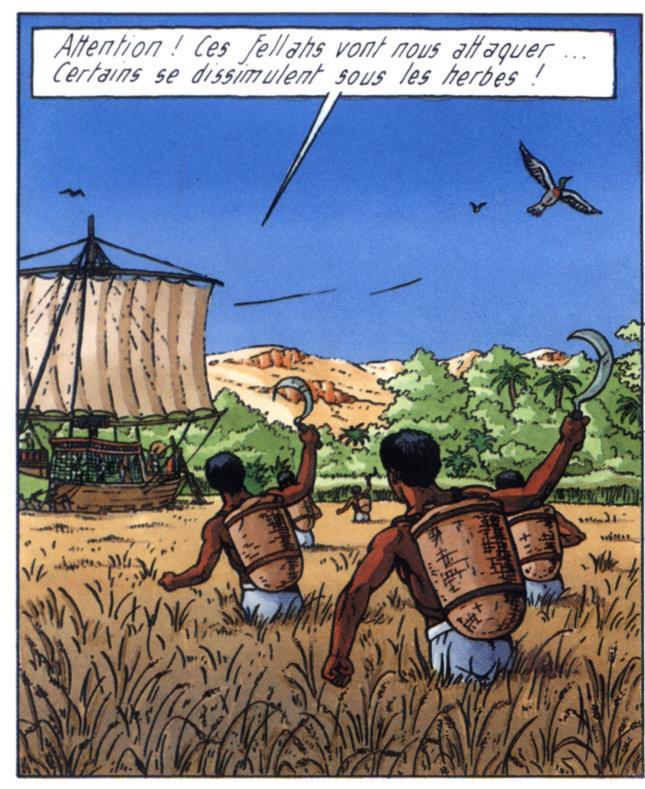






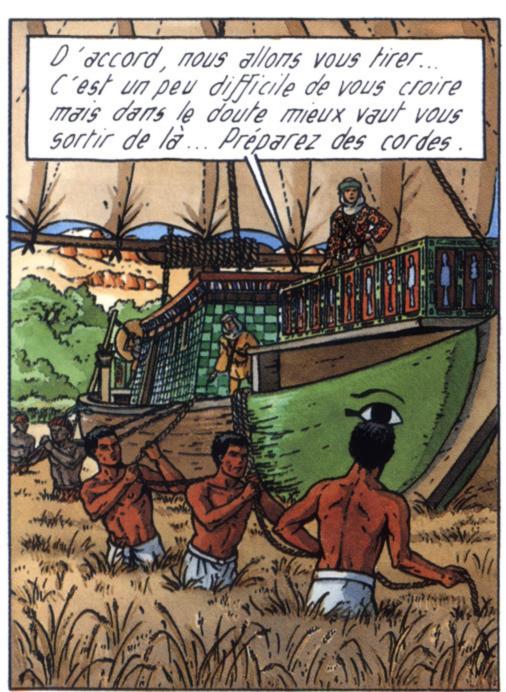


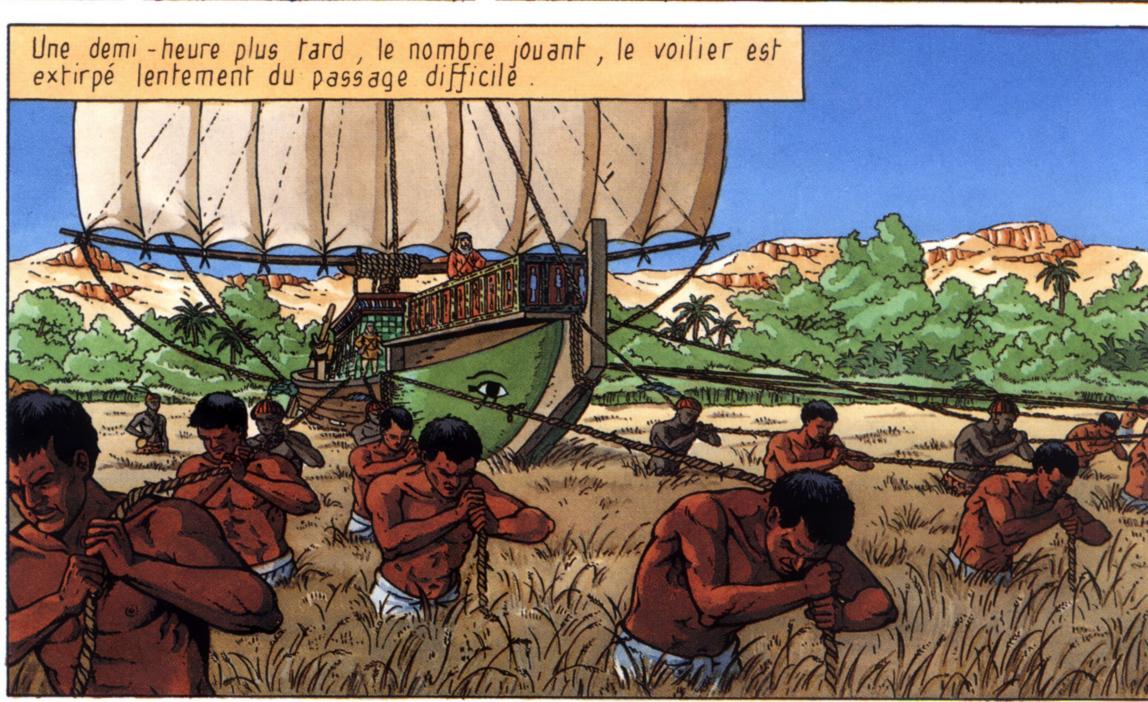


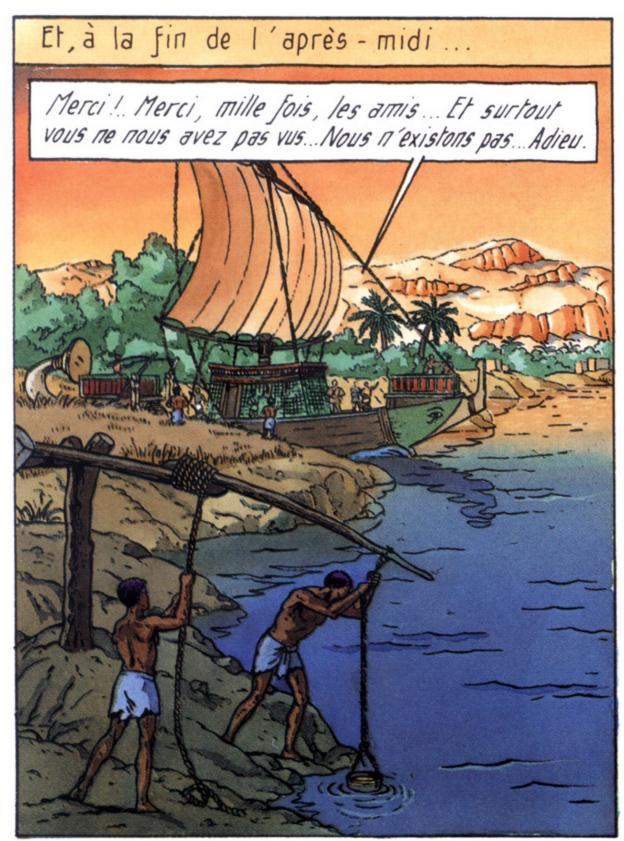




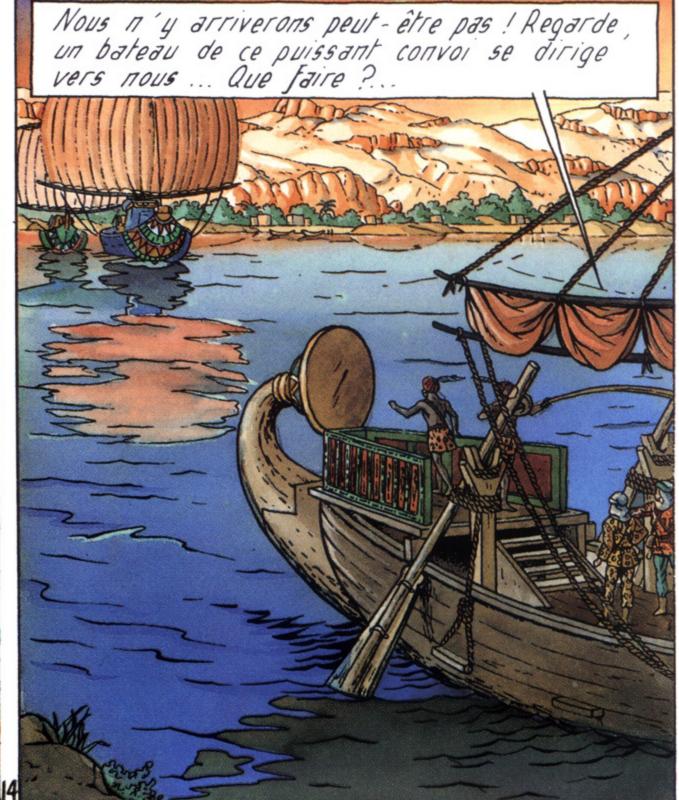


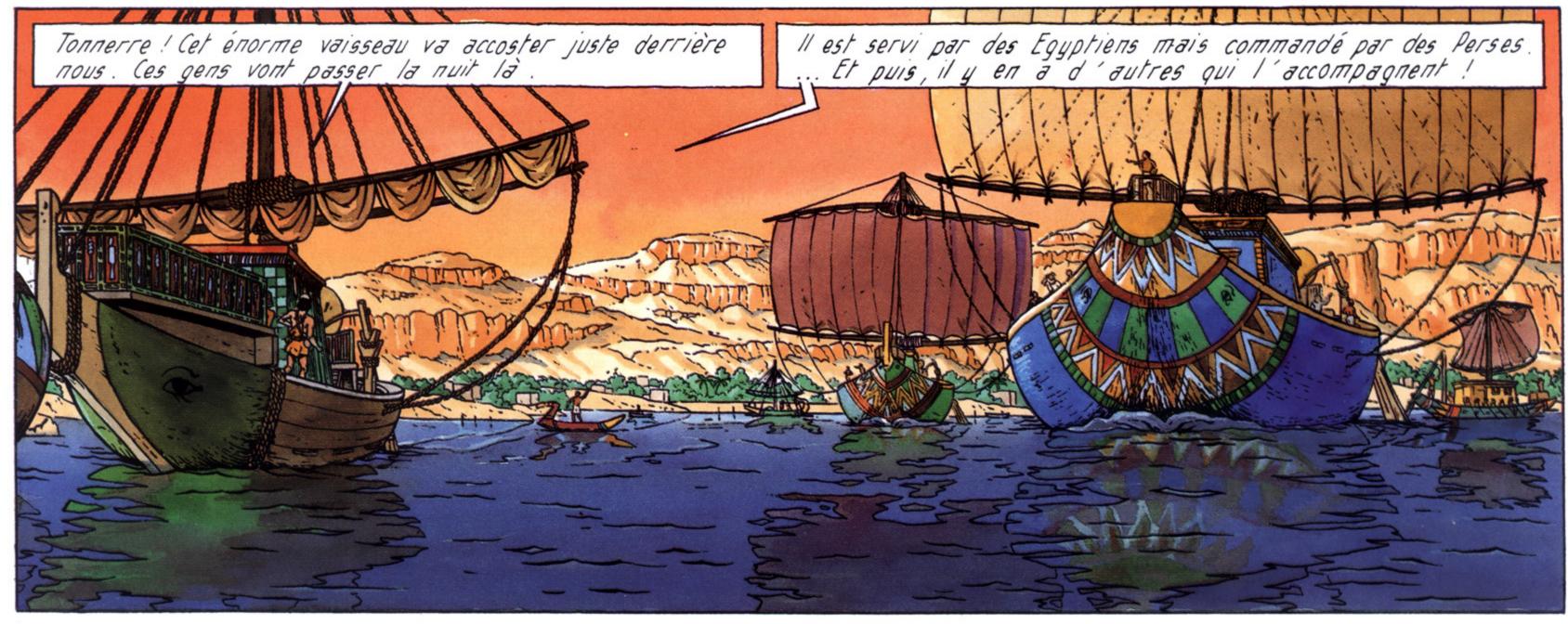


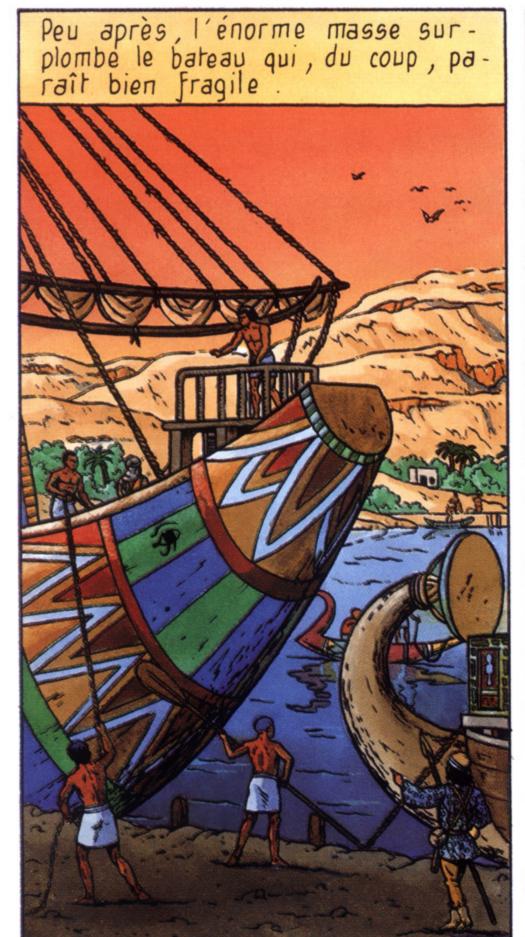












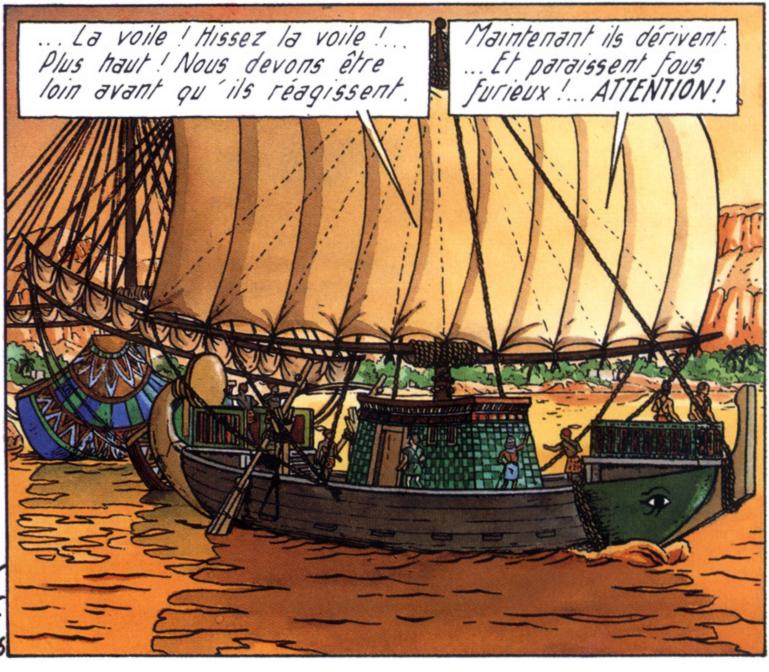


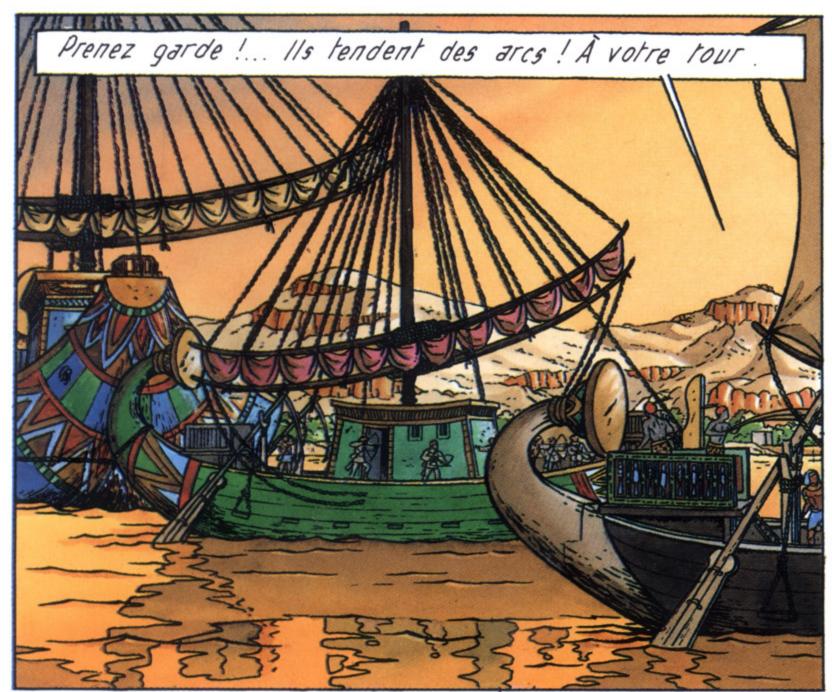


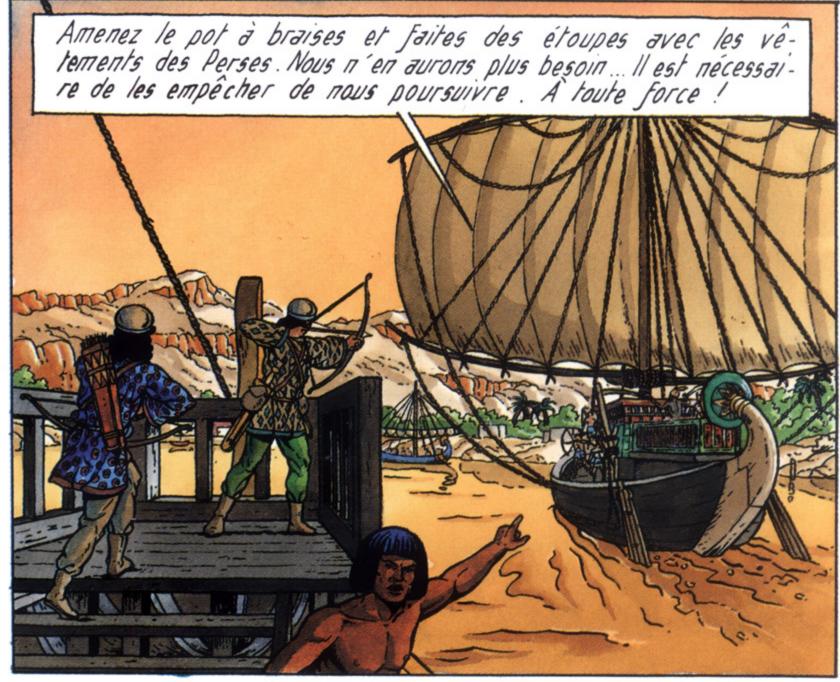


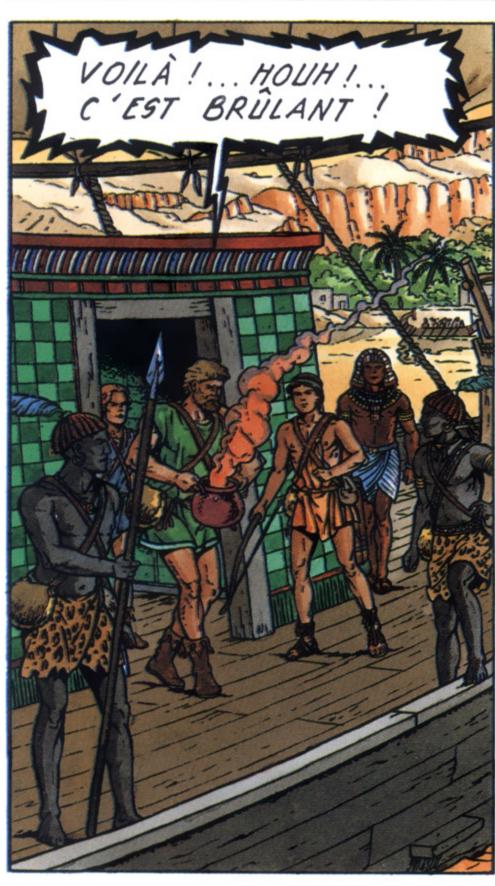


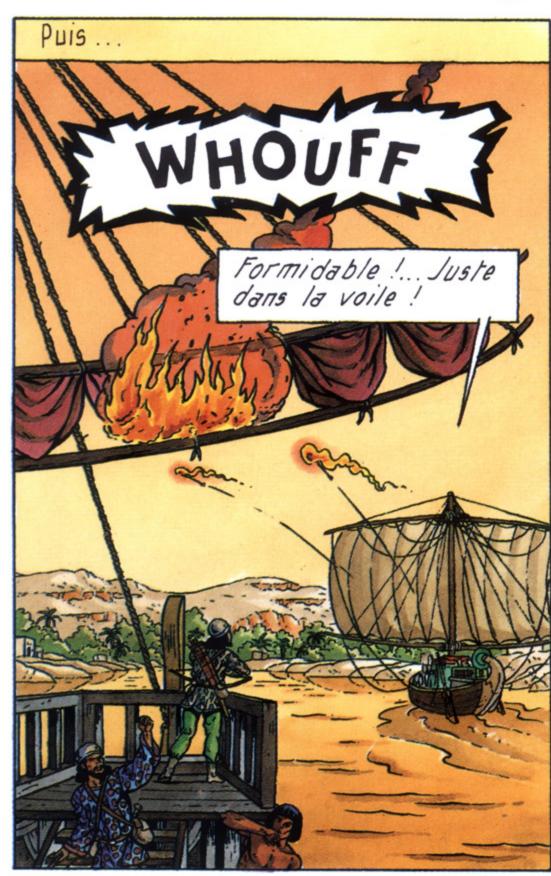


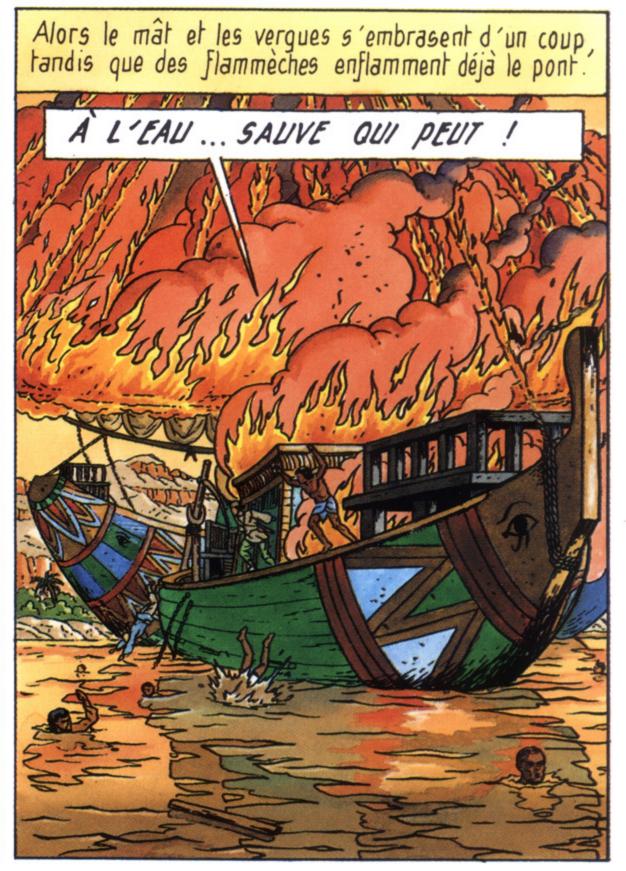






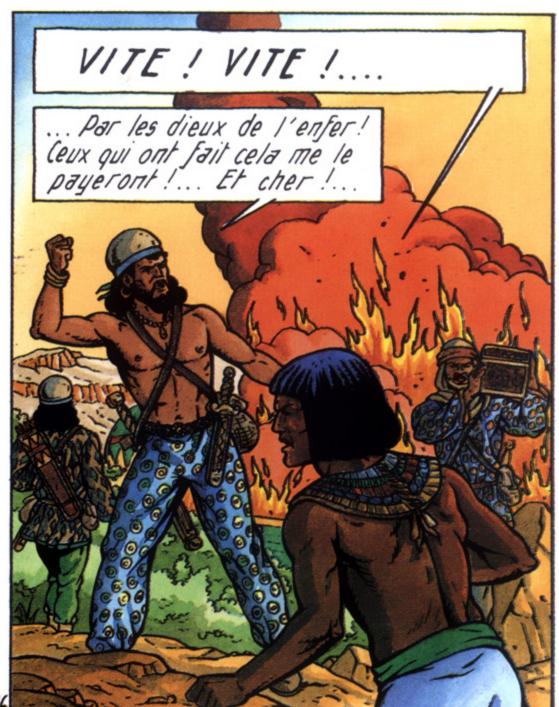








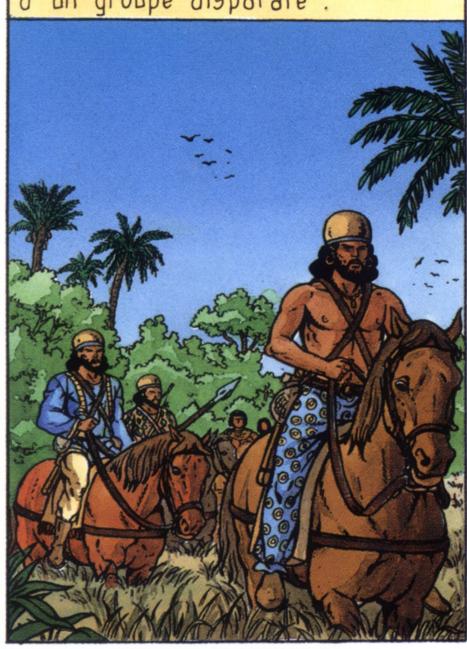


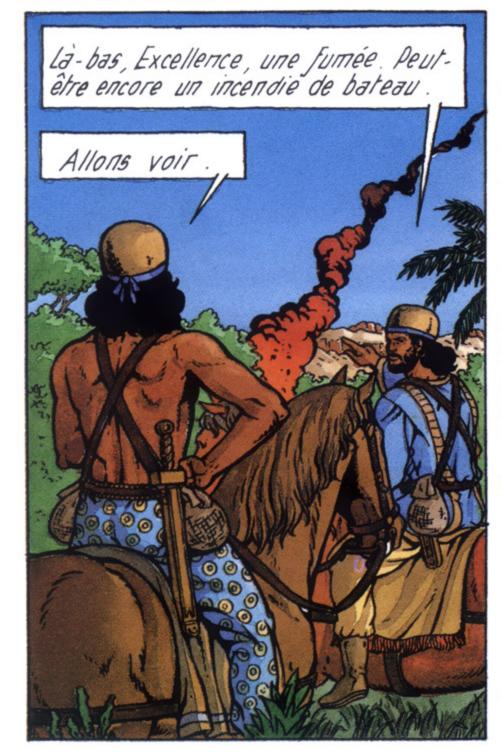


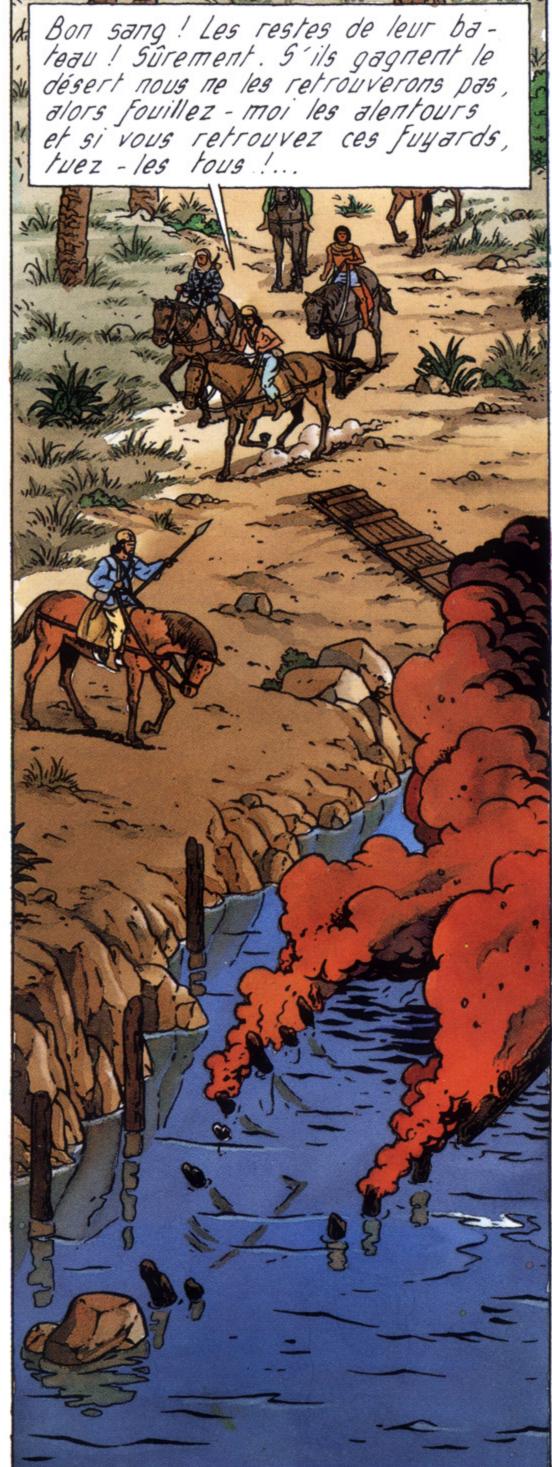
Quelques instants plus tard, le gouverneur Baalgoas et son entourage assistent, médusés, à l'extermination de leur Flotille.

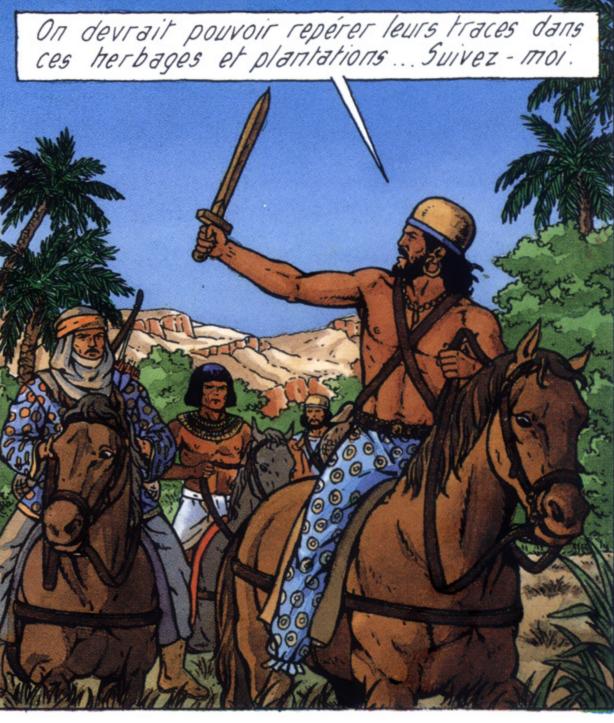


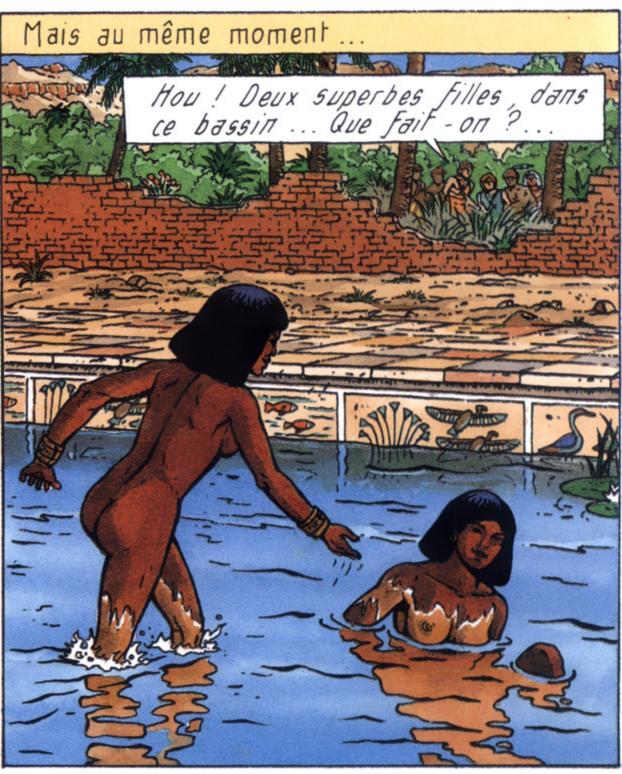
Enfin, une heure plus tard, le gouverneur de la Haute Egypte galope, au bord du Nil, à la tête d'un groupe disparate.











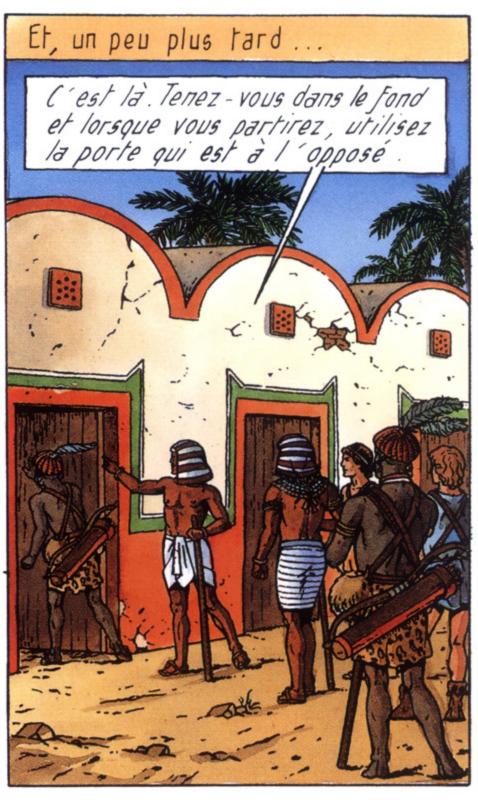






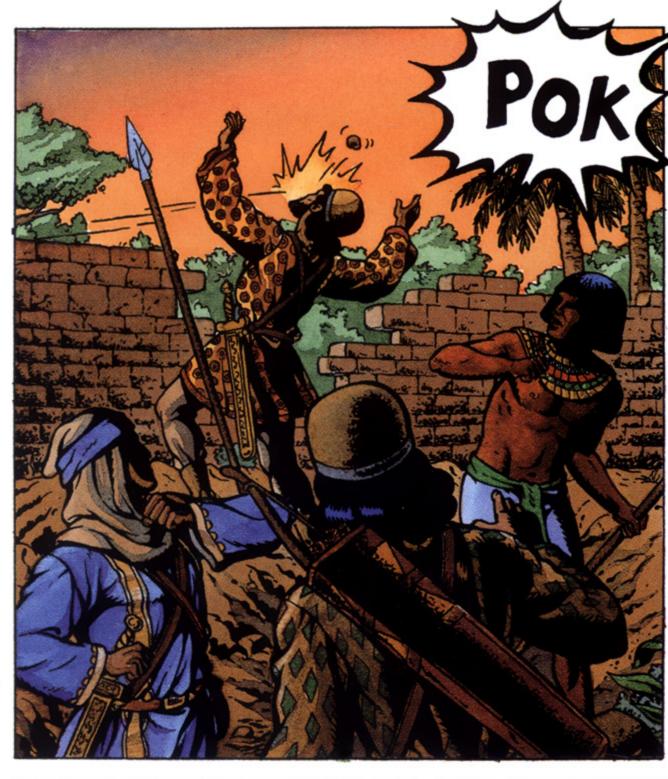










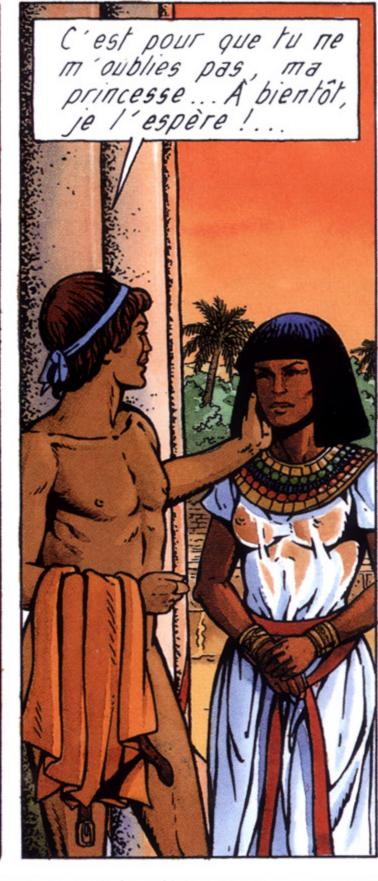




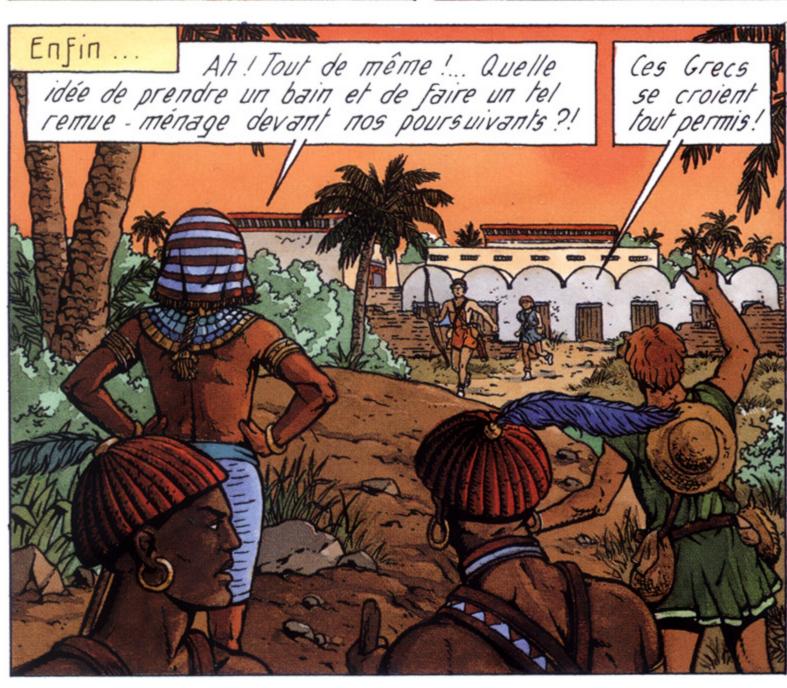




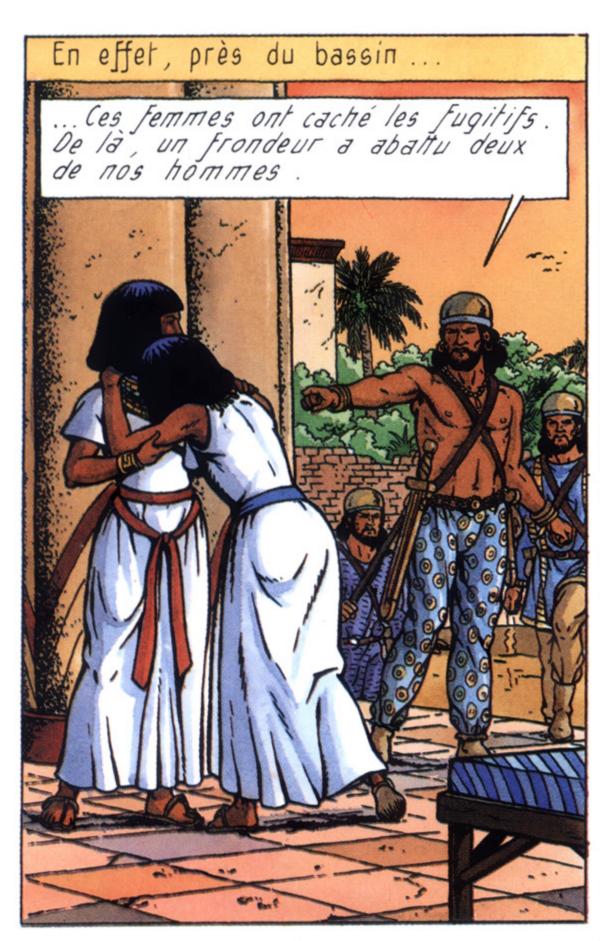






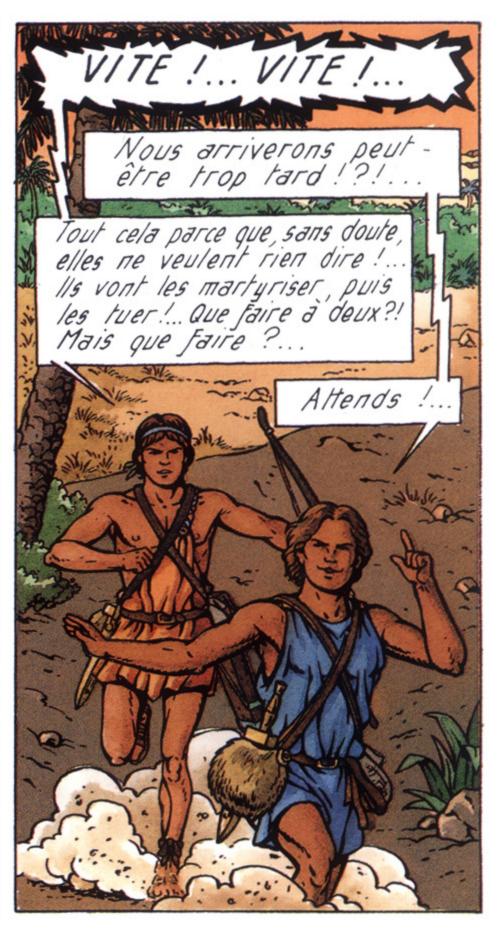




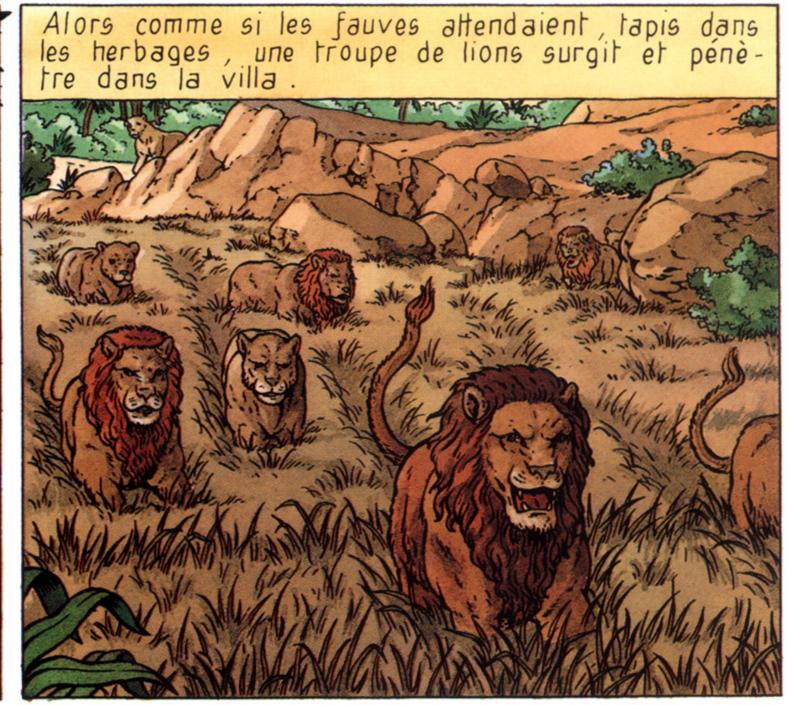




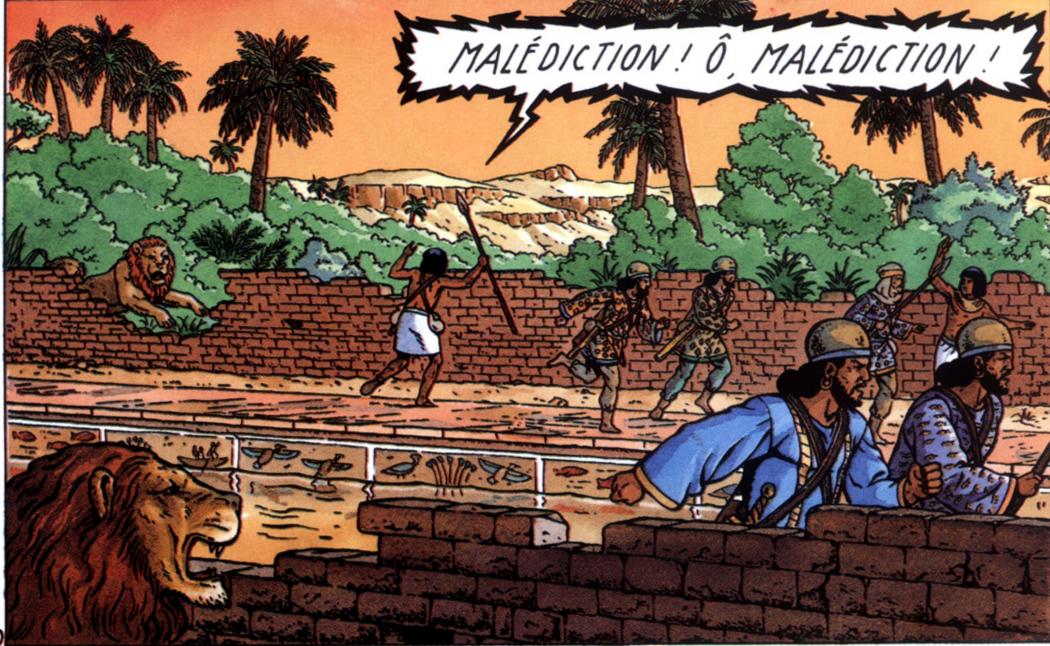


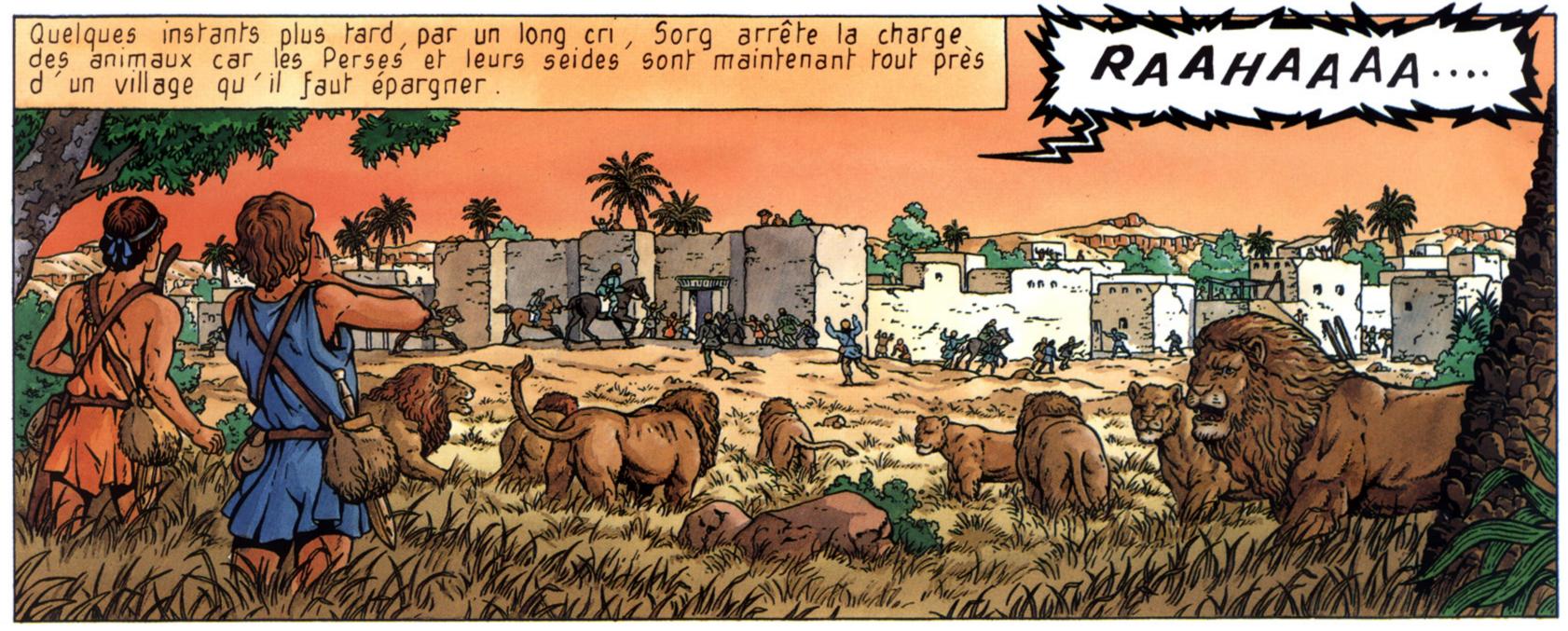




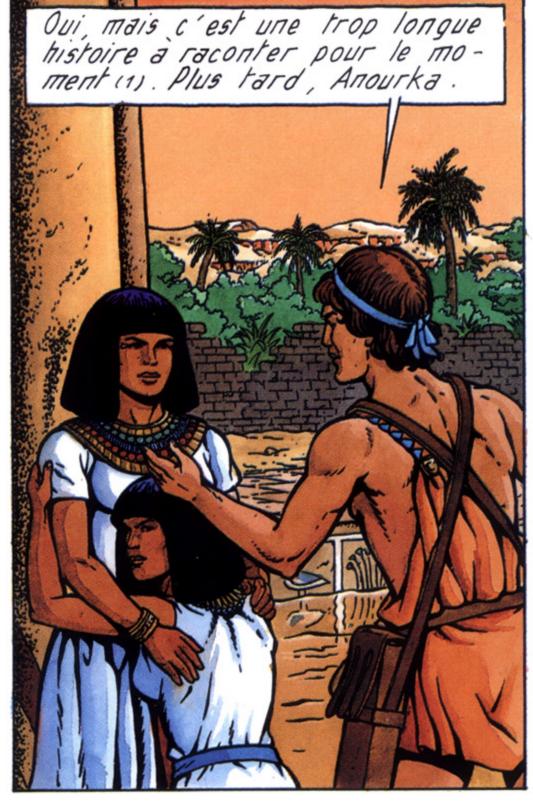




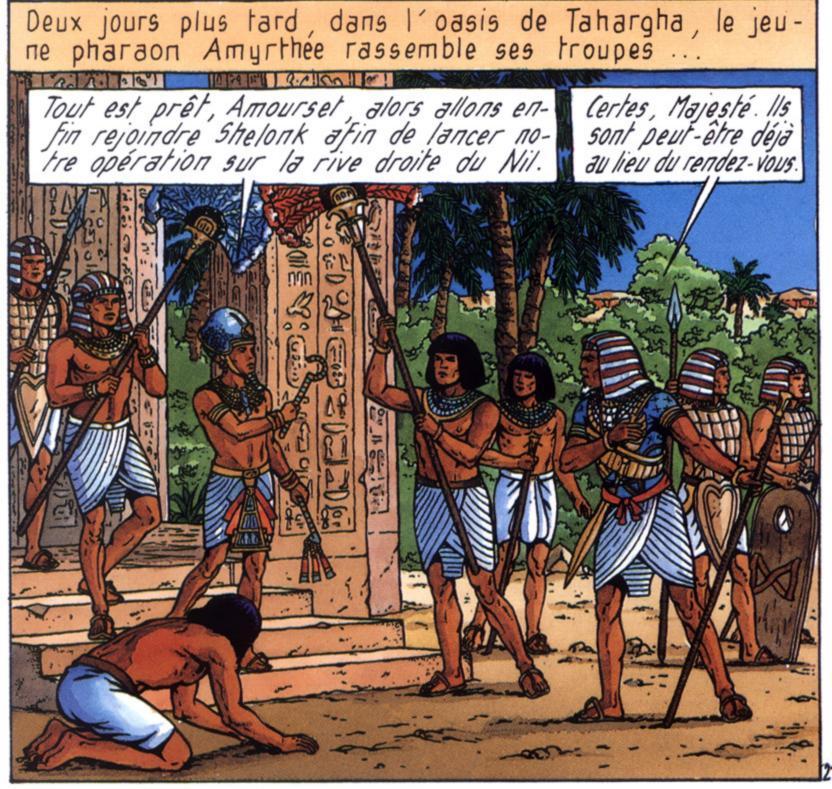


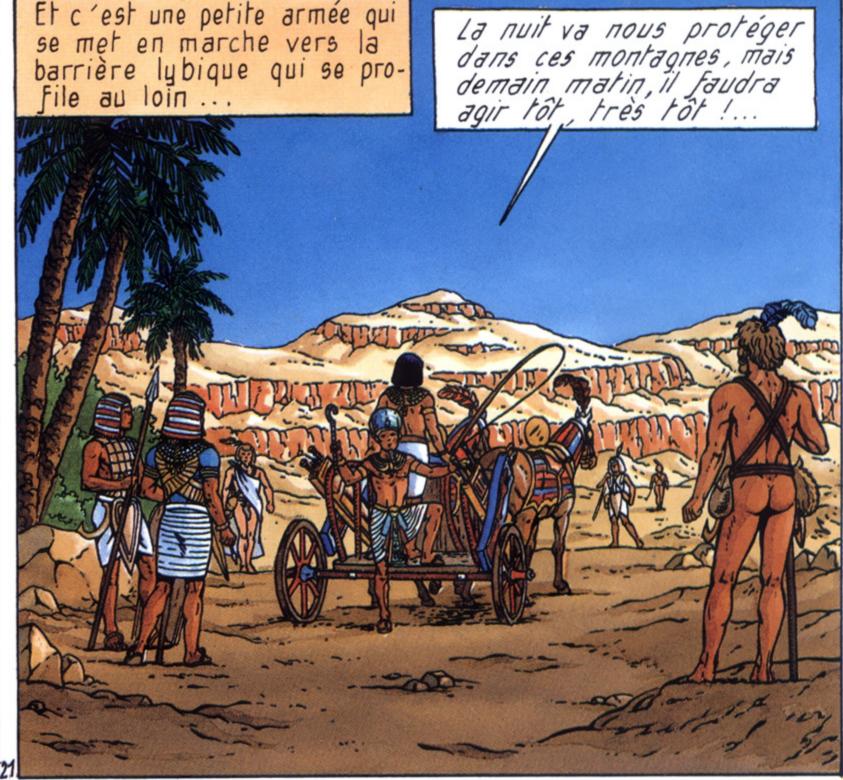




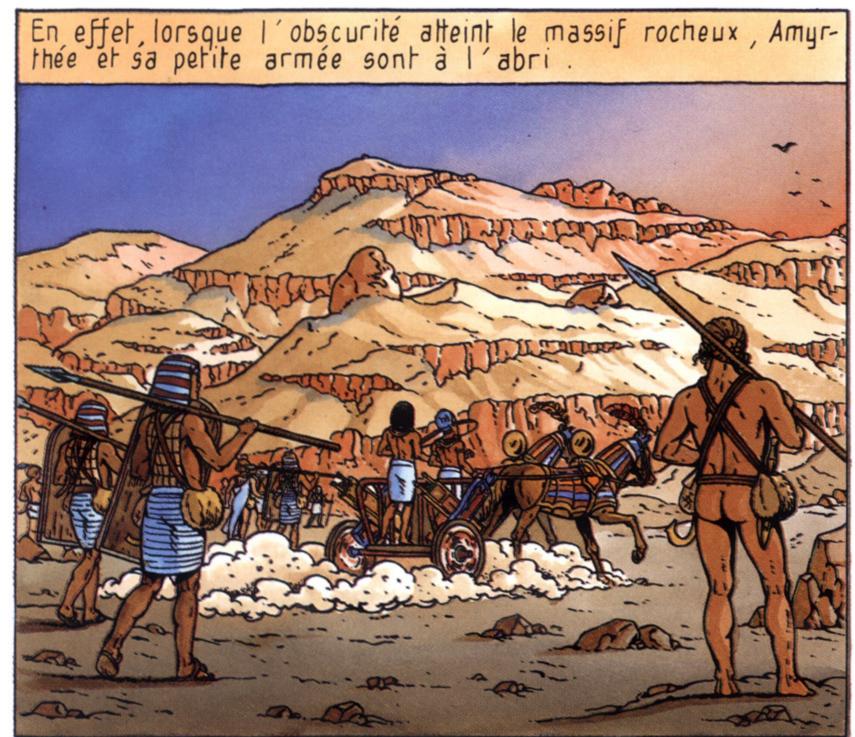


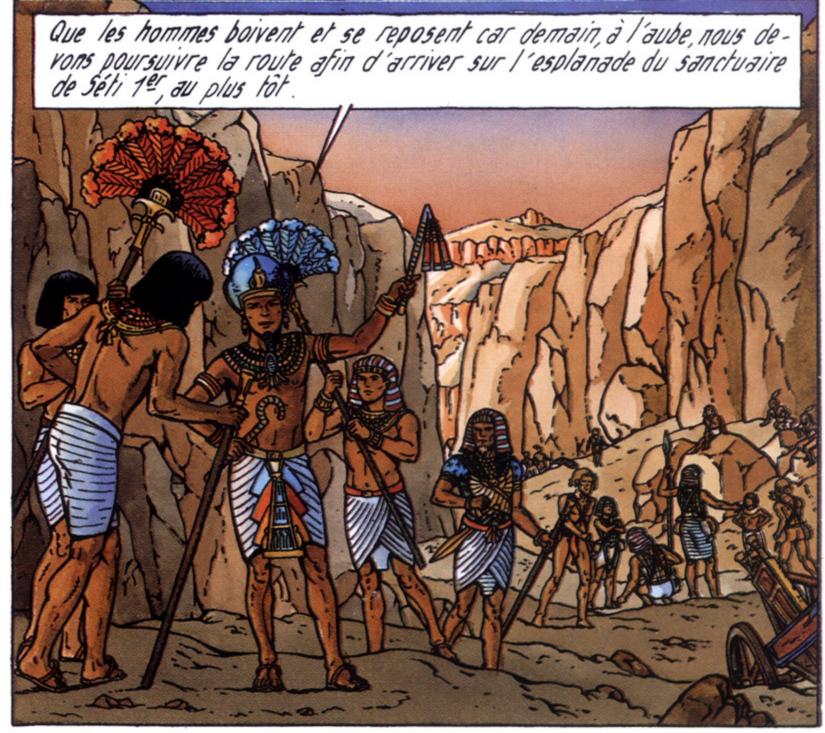


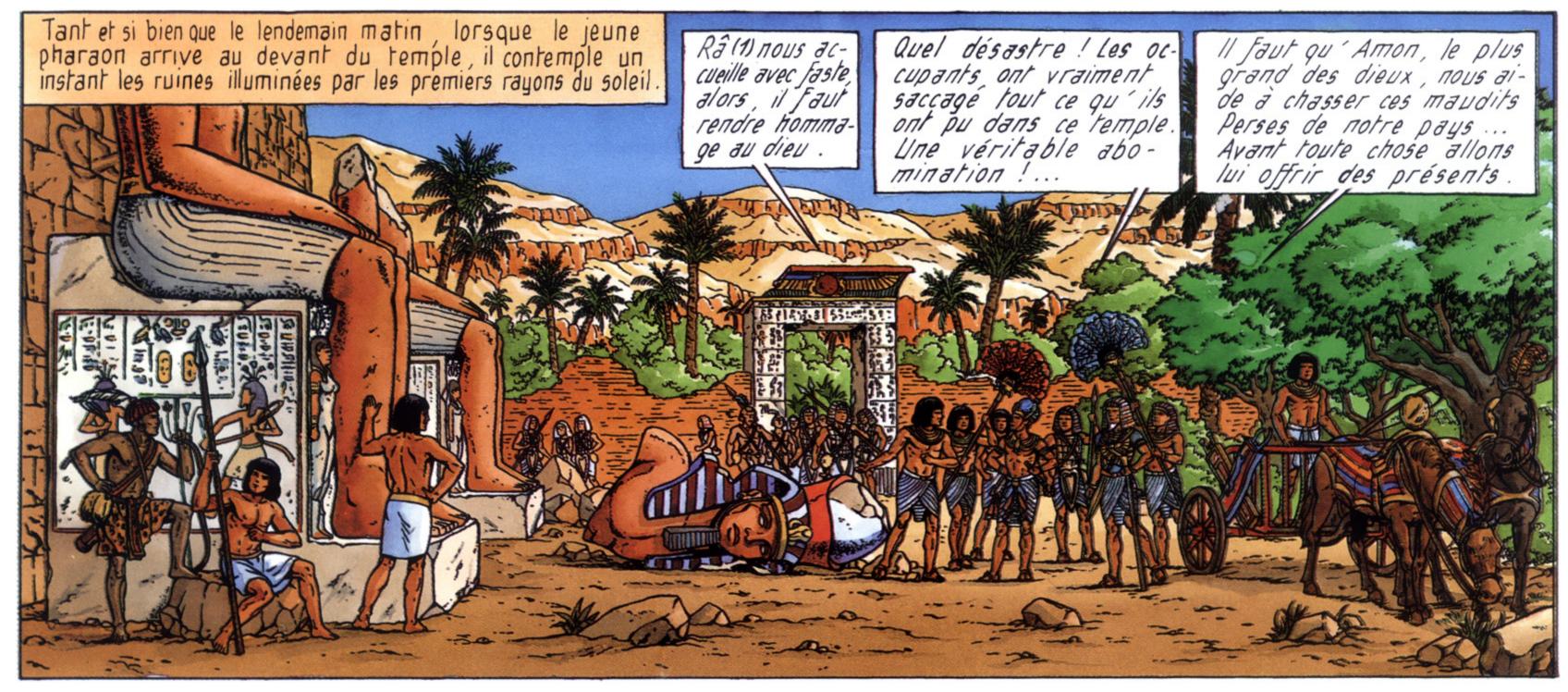


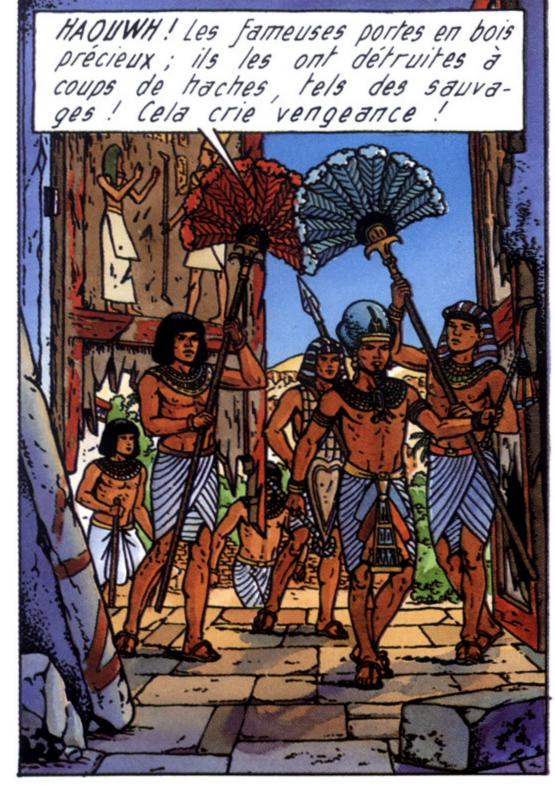


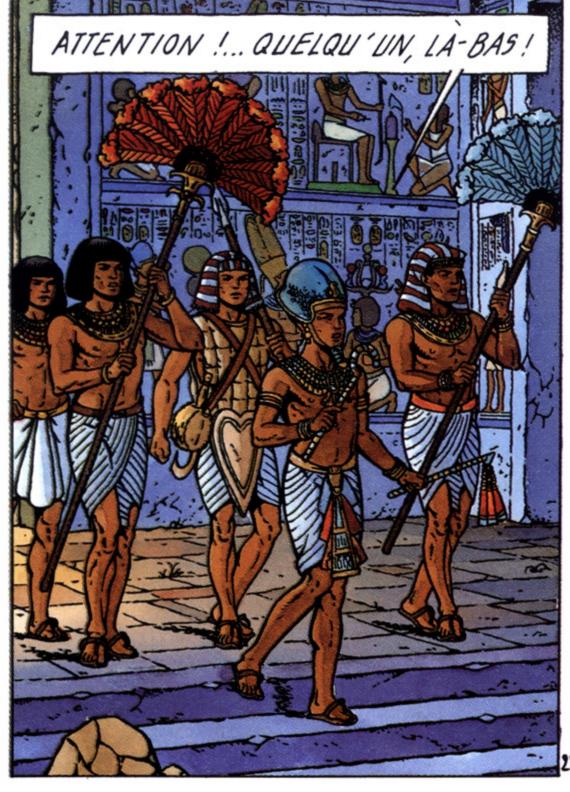
(1) Voir "Le Styx".













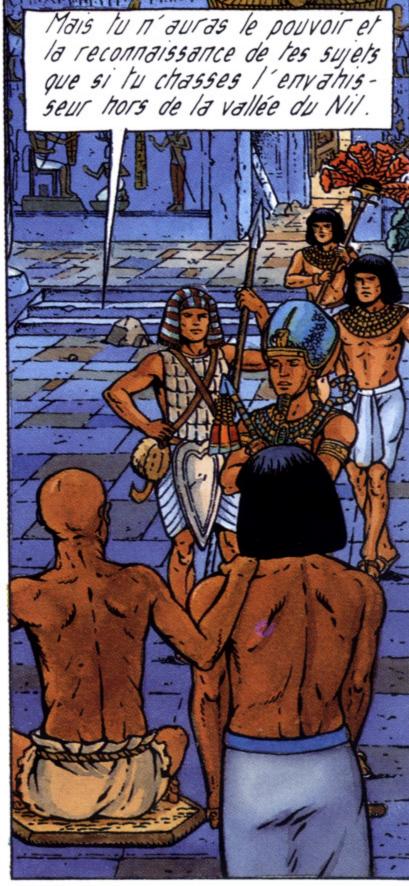
(1) Le Soleil.

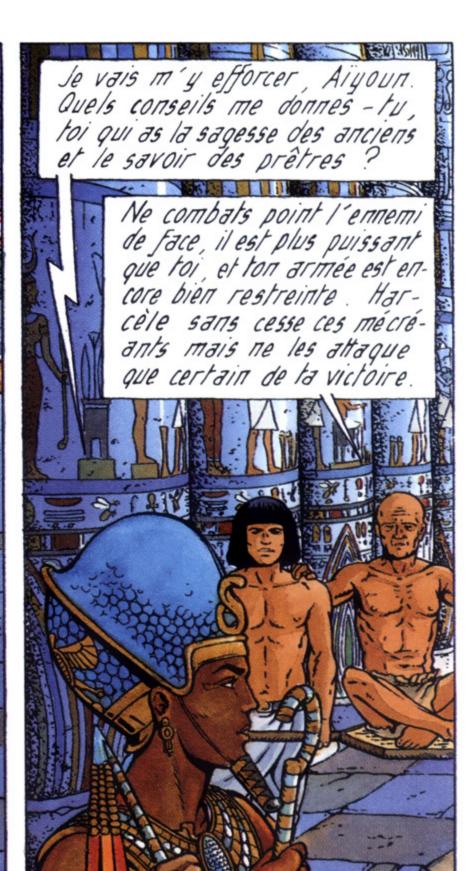
Alors apparaît un curieux trio : deux jeunes gens portant un vieillard, presque nu, sur une sorte de bran-card primitif.

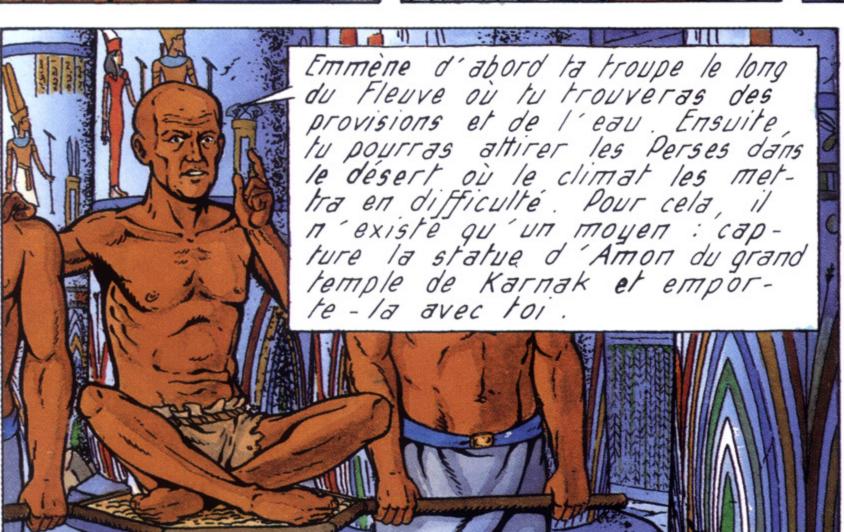


C'est moi, Aiyoun, le grand prêtre de ce sanctuaire que le vil ennemi a honteusement saccage. La malédiction des dieux soit SUT IUI ... Je Sais qui tu es, joune Amyrthee, prétendant aux deux couronnes de l'Egypte.

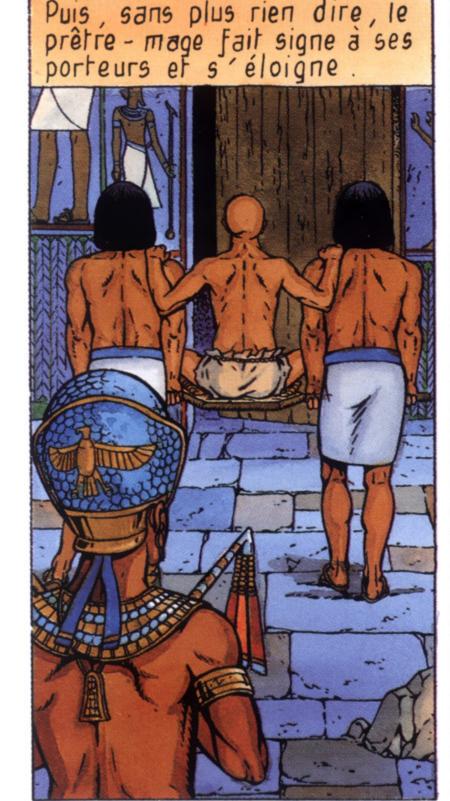


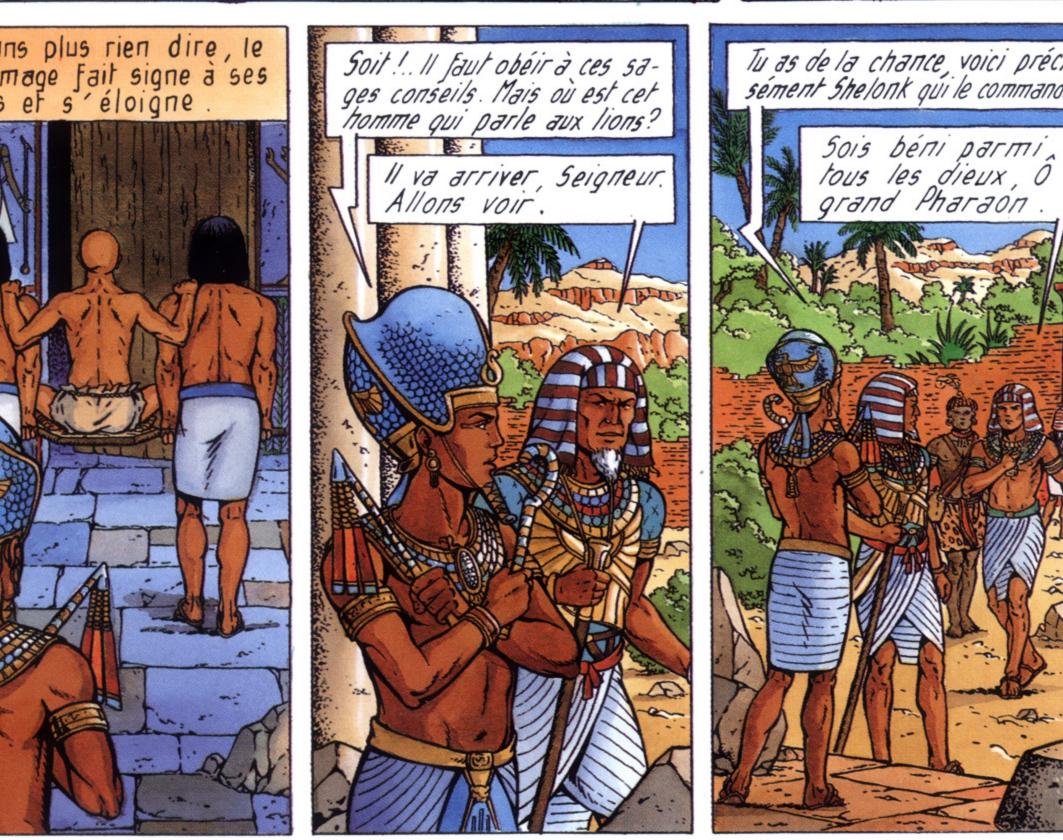


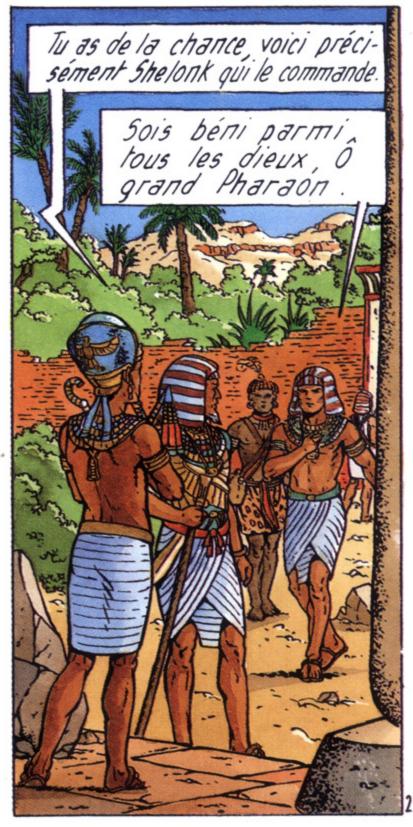


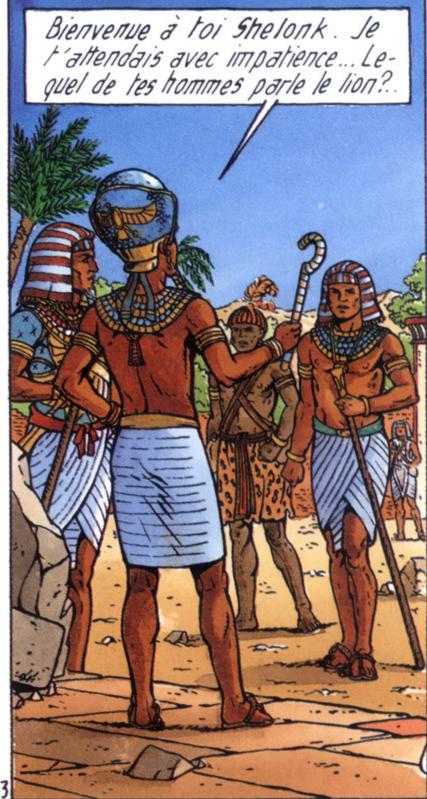


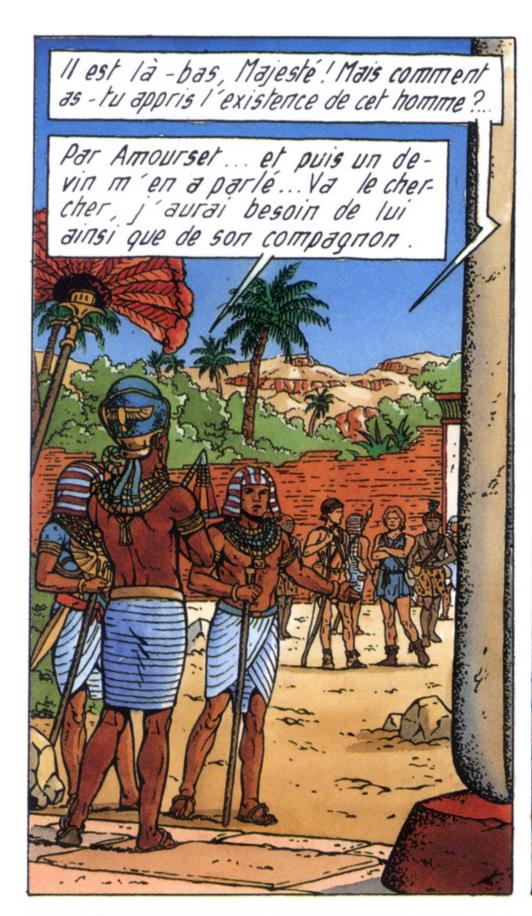
... Ce geste ne sera pas imple si tu soustrais le grand dieu de l'Egypte aux étrangers, toute la popula tion sera avec toi . Les Perses ne pourront le supporter, et dès lors ils seront obligés de le pourchasser dans le désert où tu auras toutes tes chances. Afin de prendre possession de la statue d'Amon, envoie celui qui parle lion et son compagnon qui est protégé par une déesse grecque. Avec quelques Nubiens, ils seront capables de te rapporter cet objet sacré. Va, et agis!.. Vainqueur, toute l'Egypte te saluera comme pharaon, jeune Amyrthée.



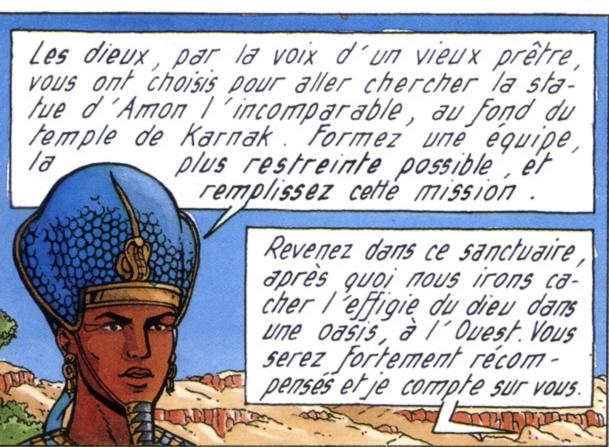


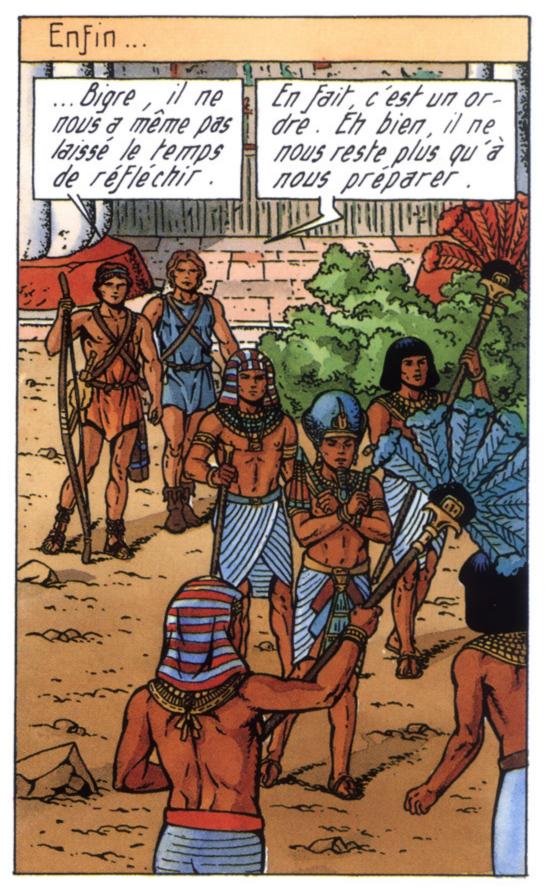


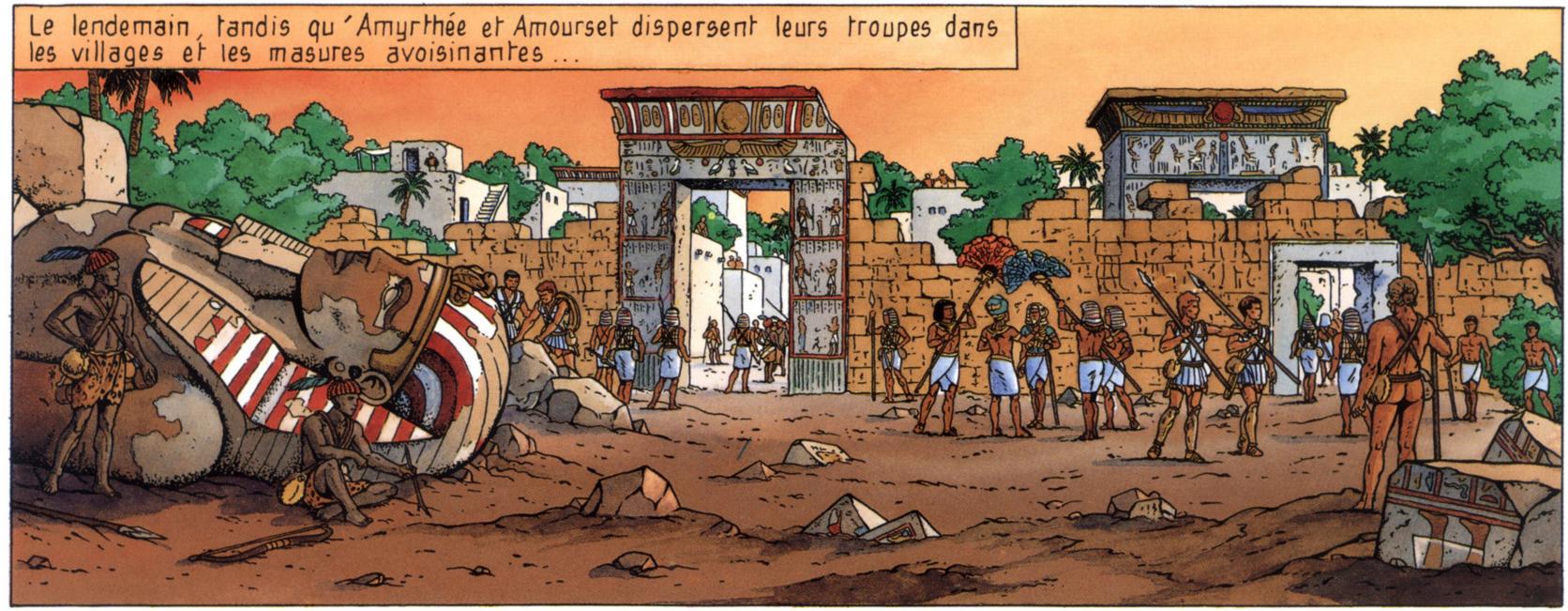


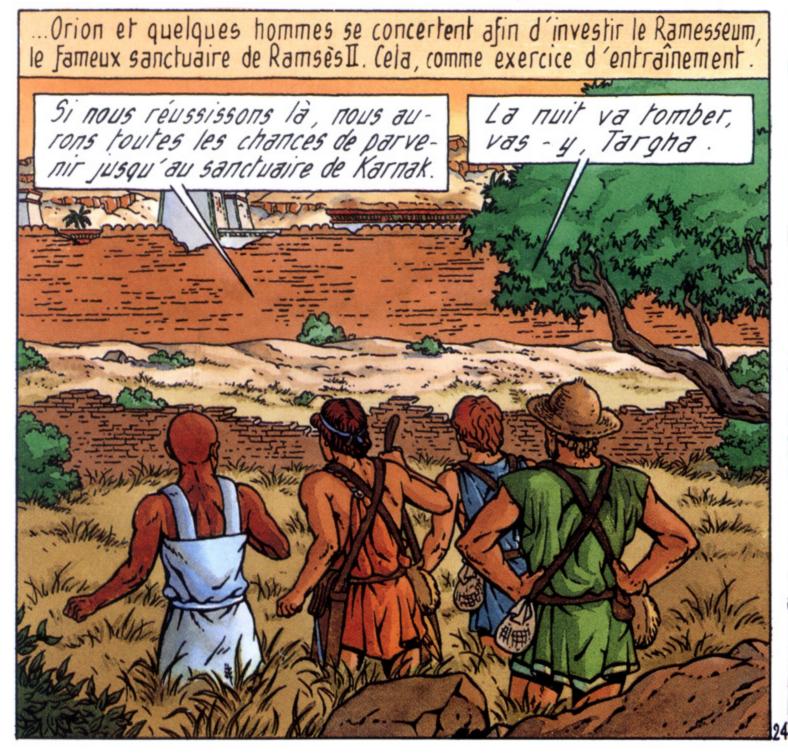


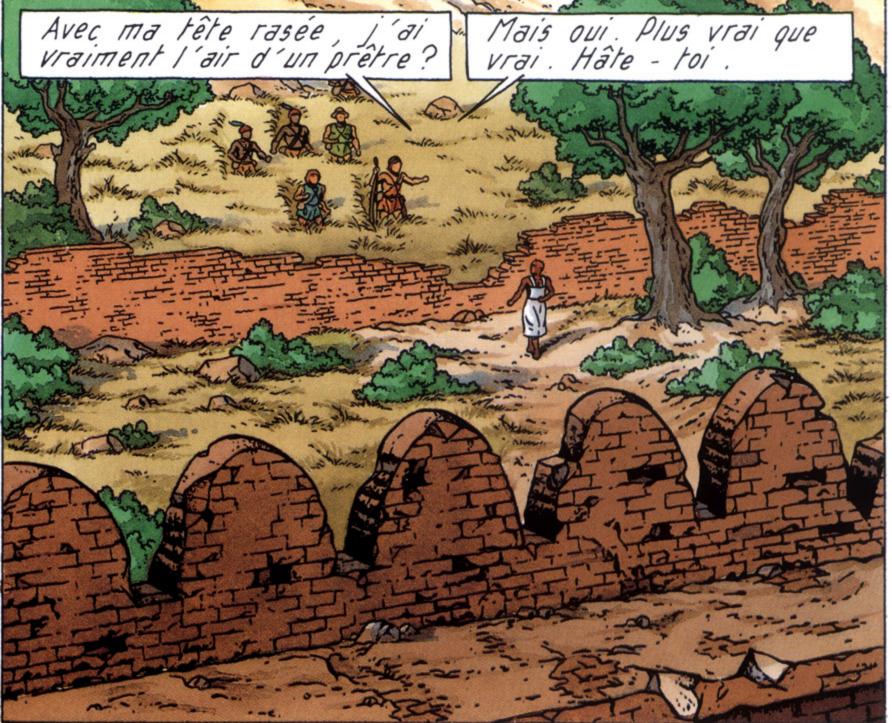




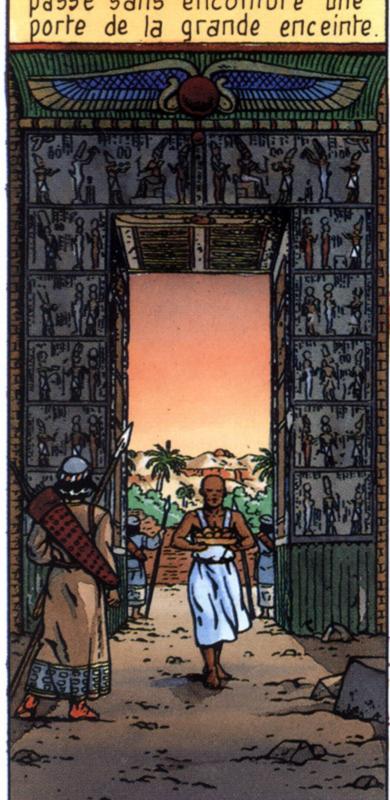


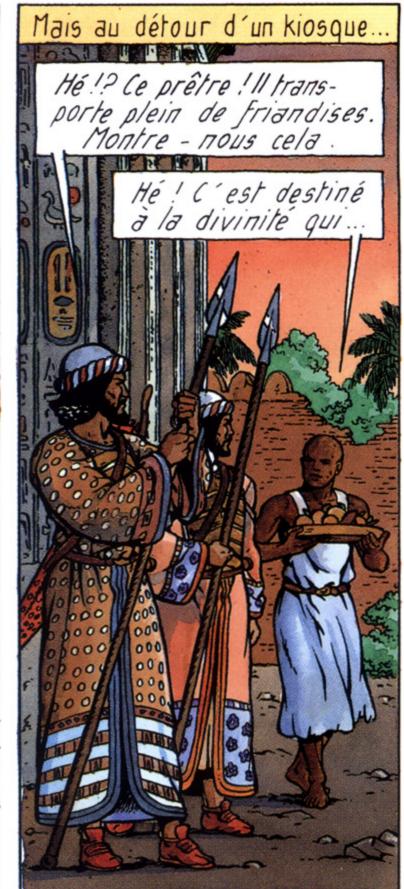






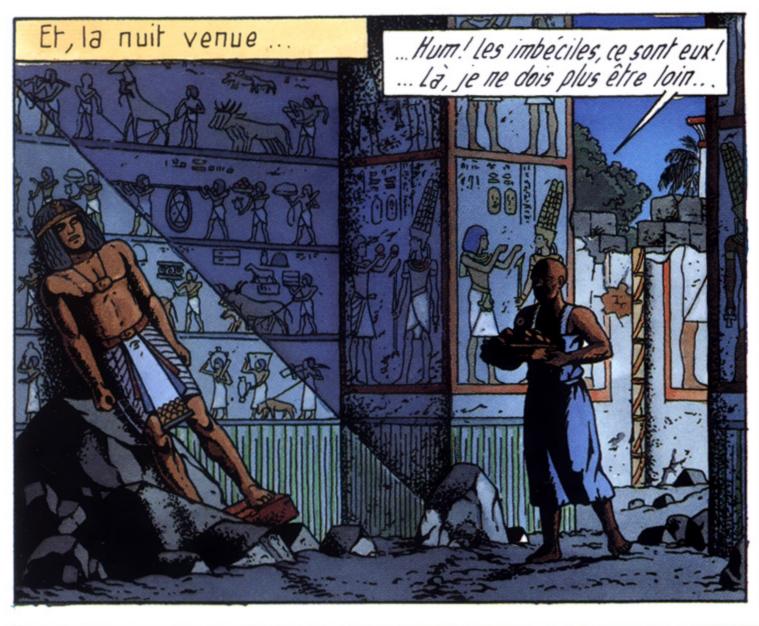
Puis, après un temps qui paraît bien long, Targha passe sans encombre une porte de la grande enceinte.





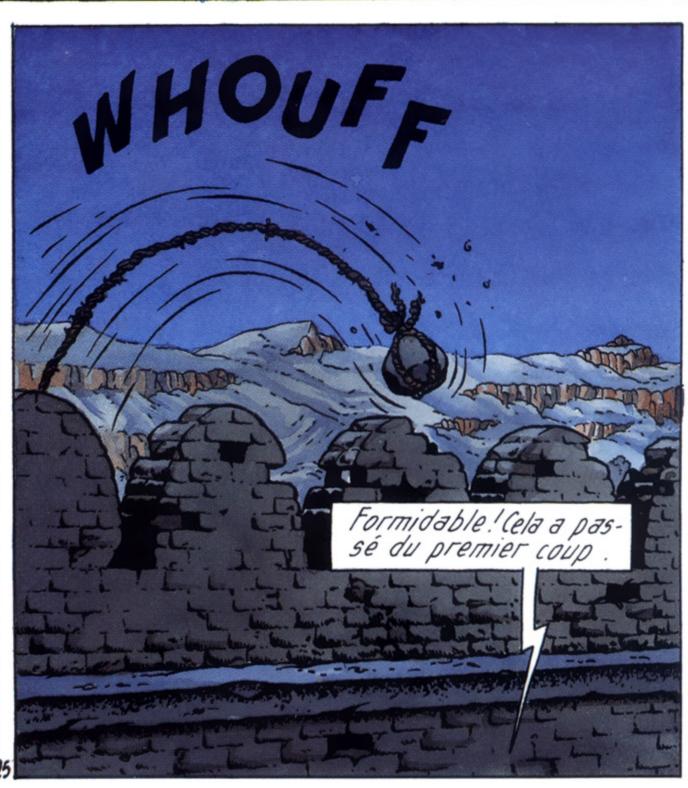








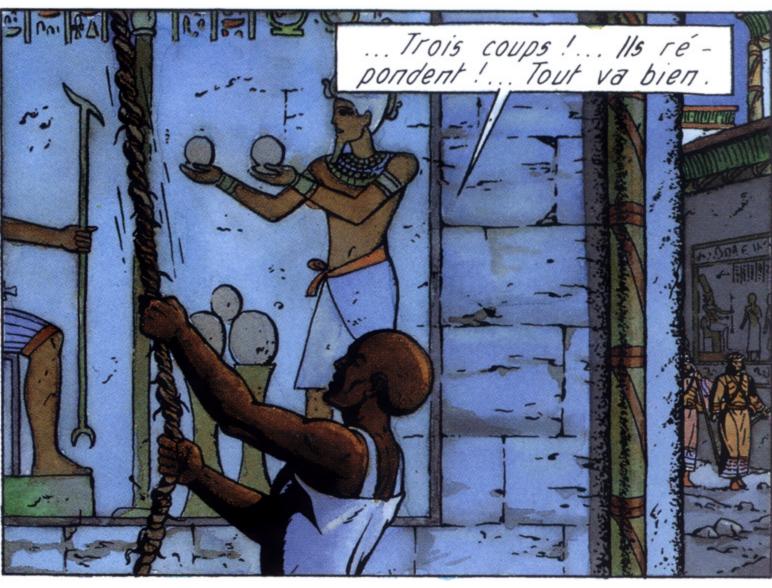


















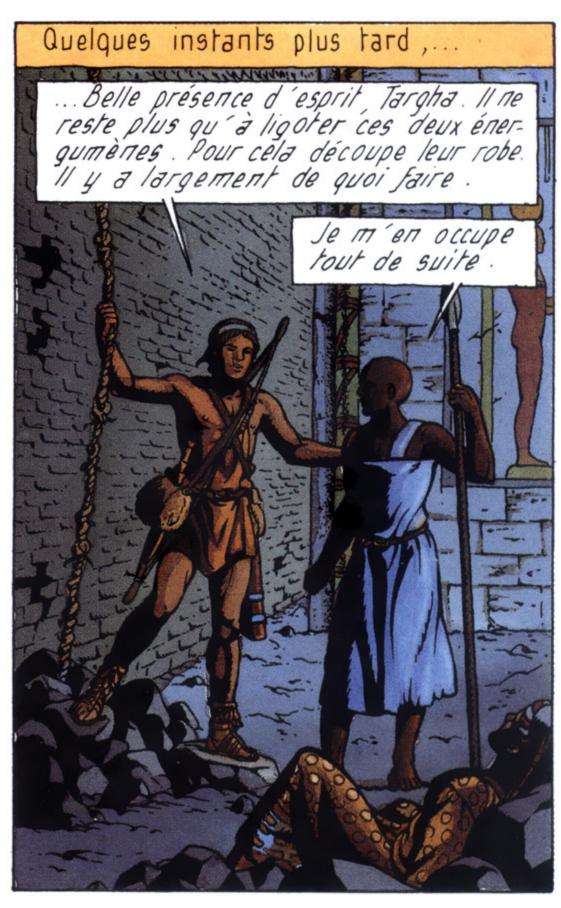




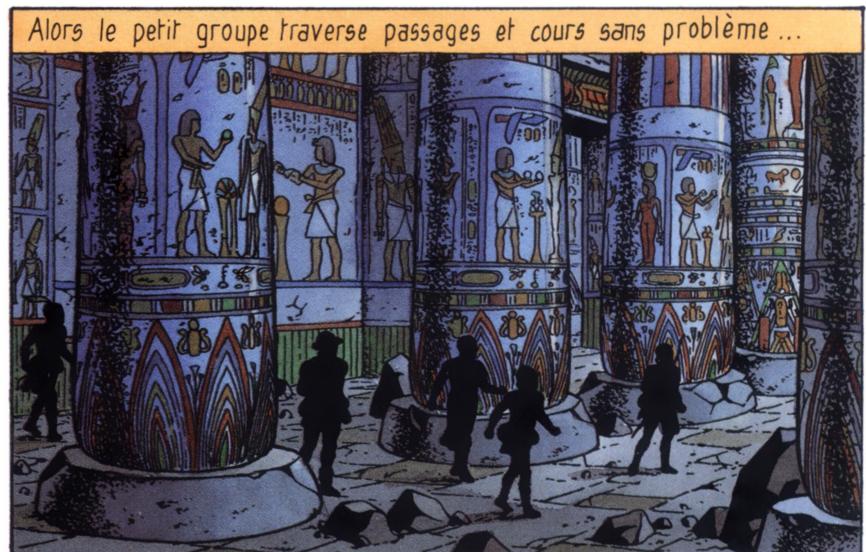








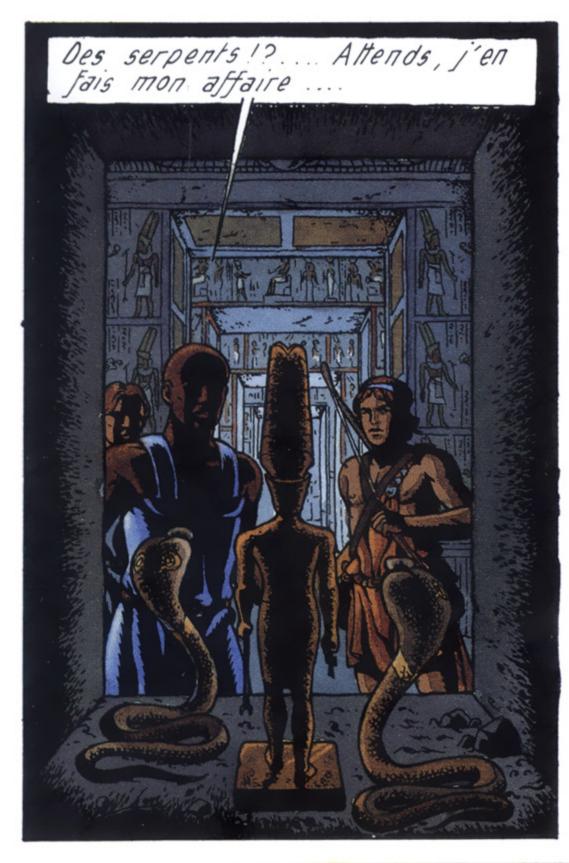






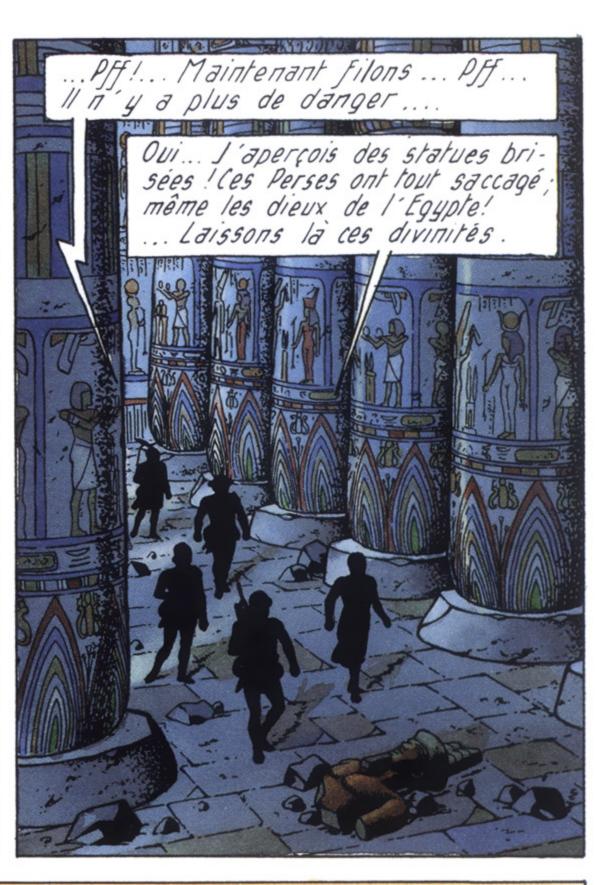


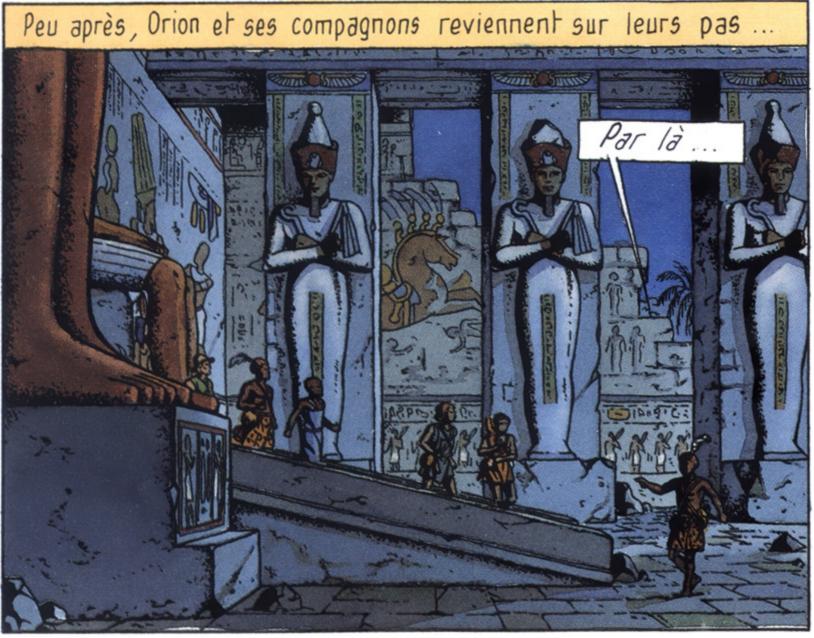
















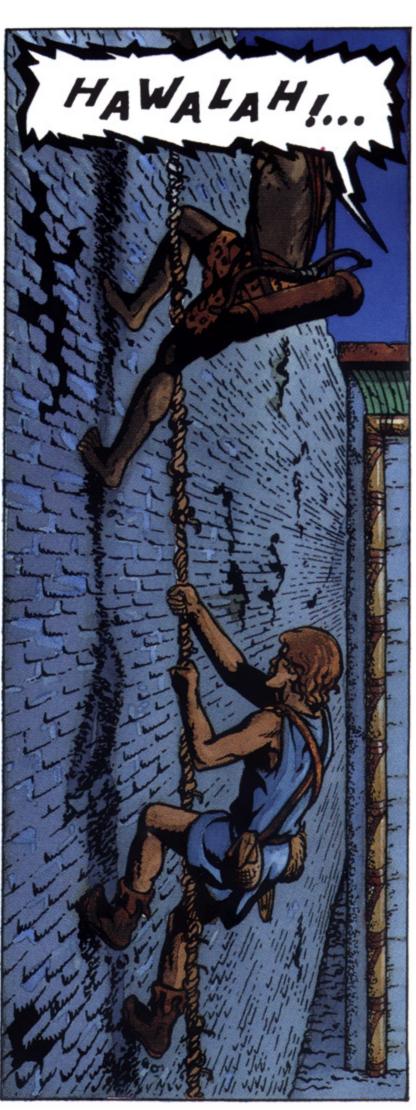








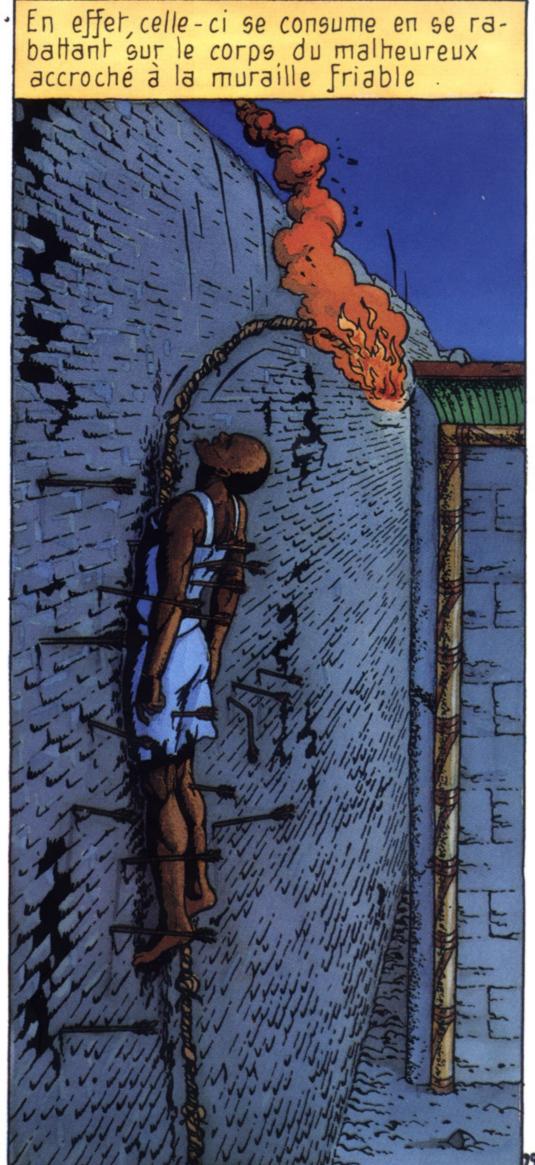






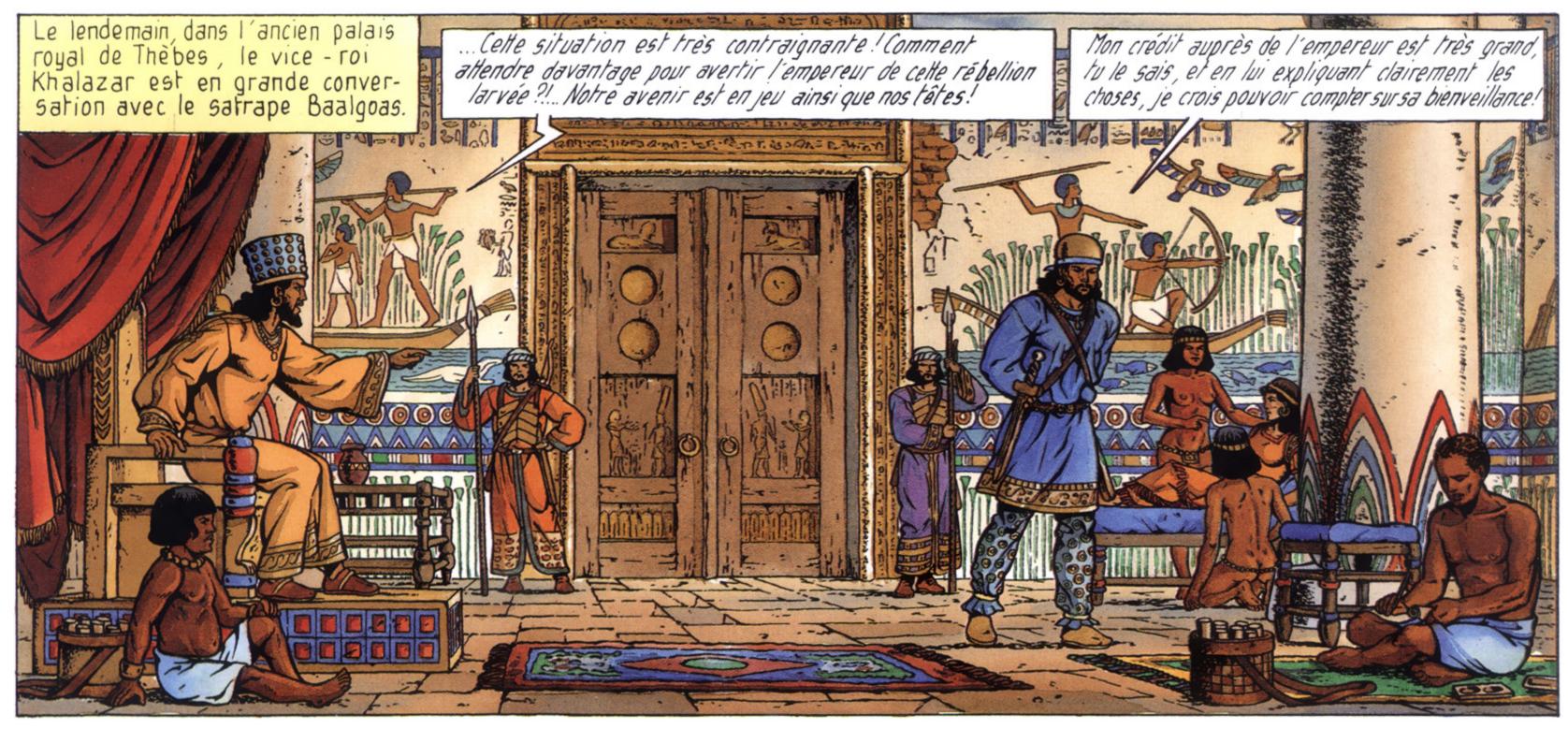


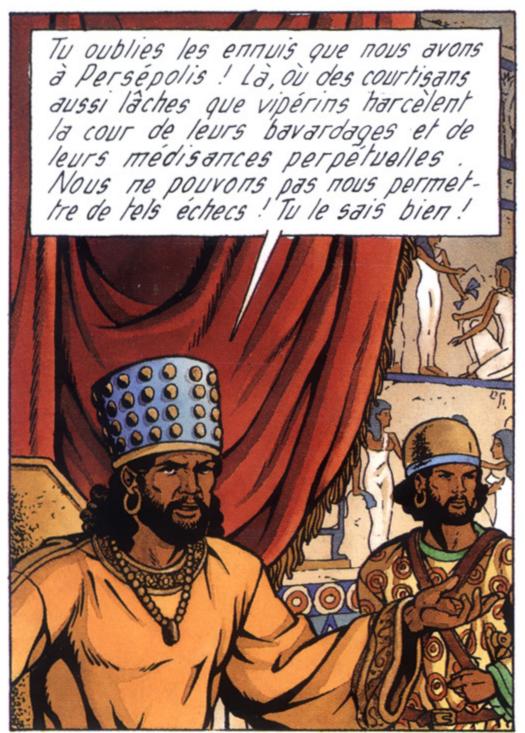






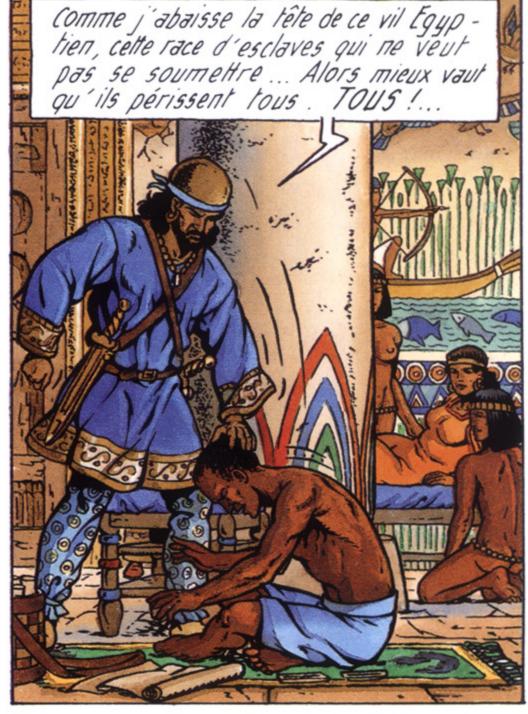
(1) gouverneur de province perse.

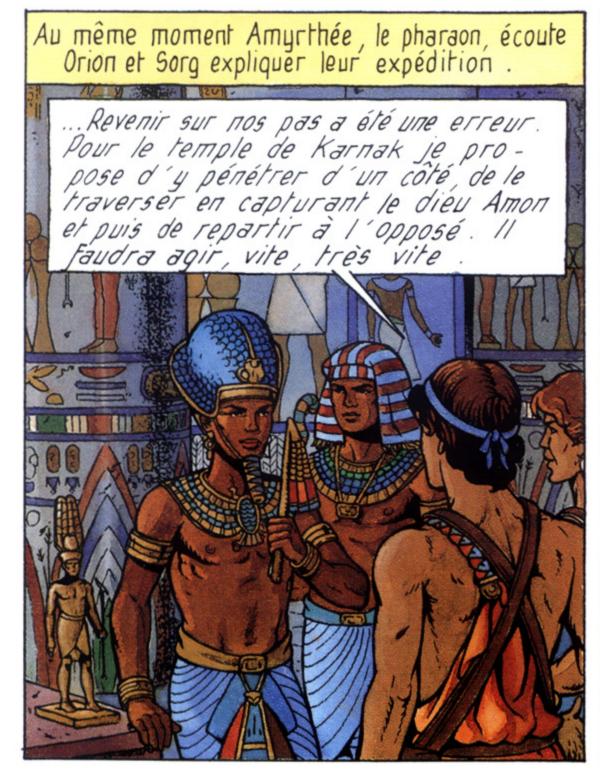




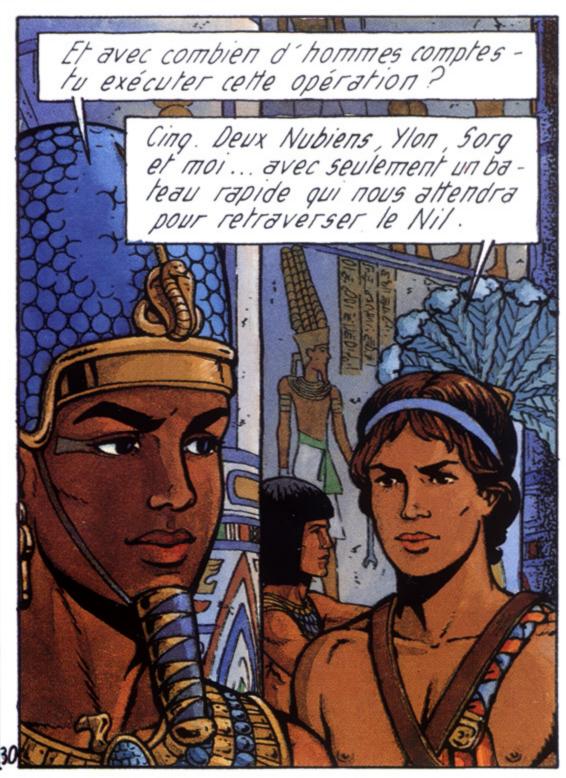


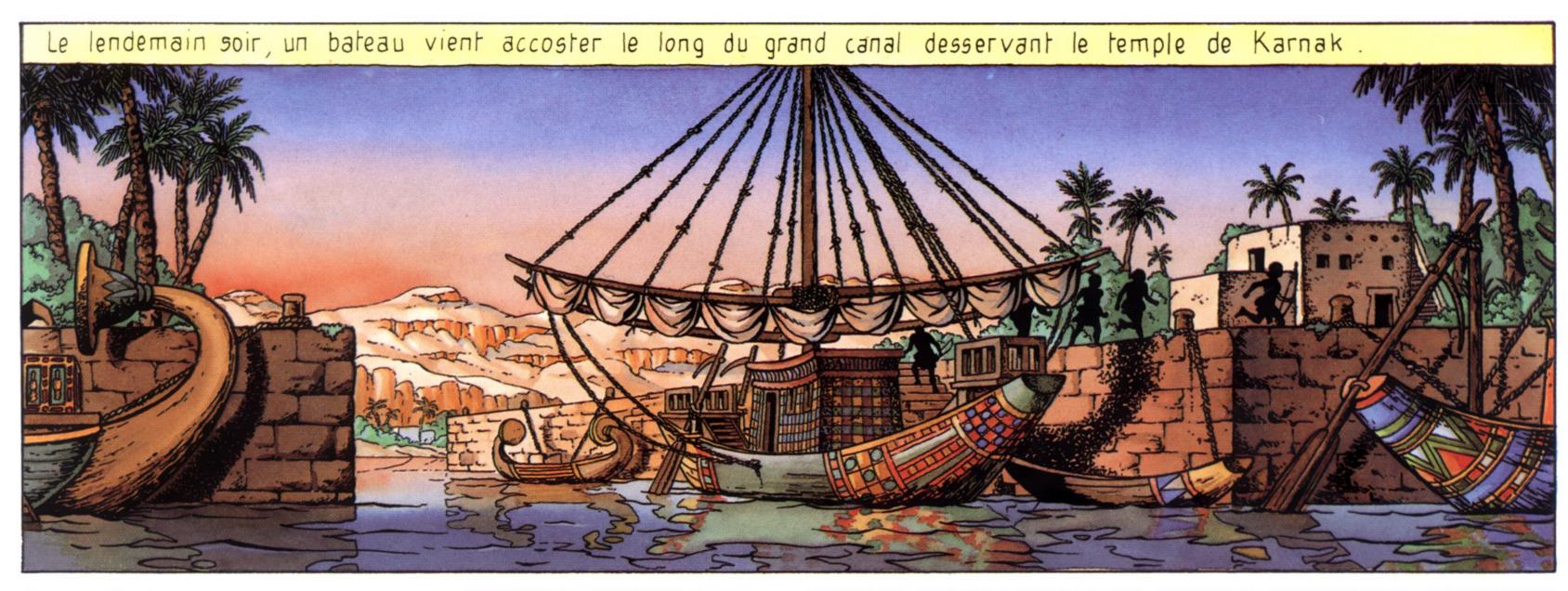


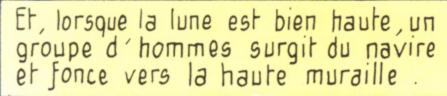


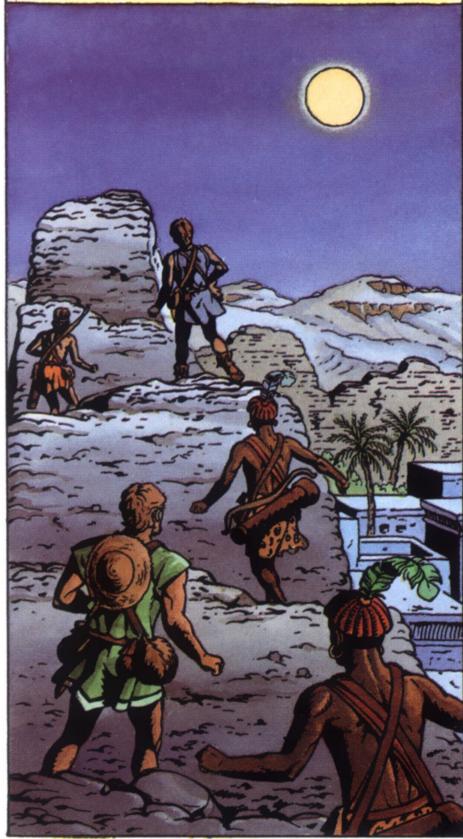












Mais malgré leurs précautions, lorsqu'ils sont parvenus au sommet du mur d'enceinte, des briques crues cèdent sous leurs pas



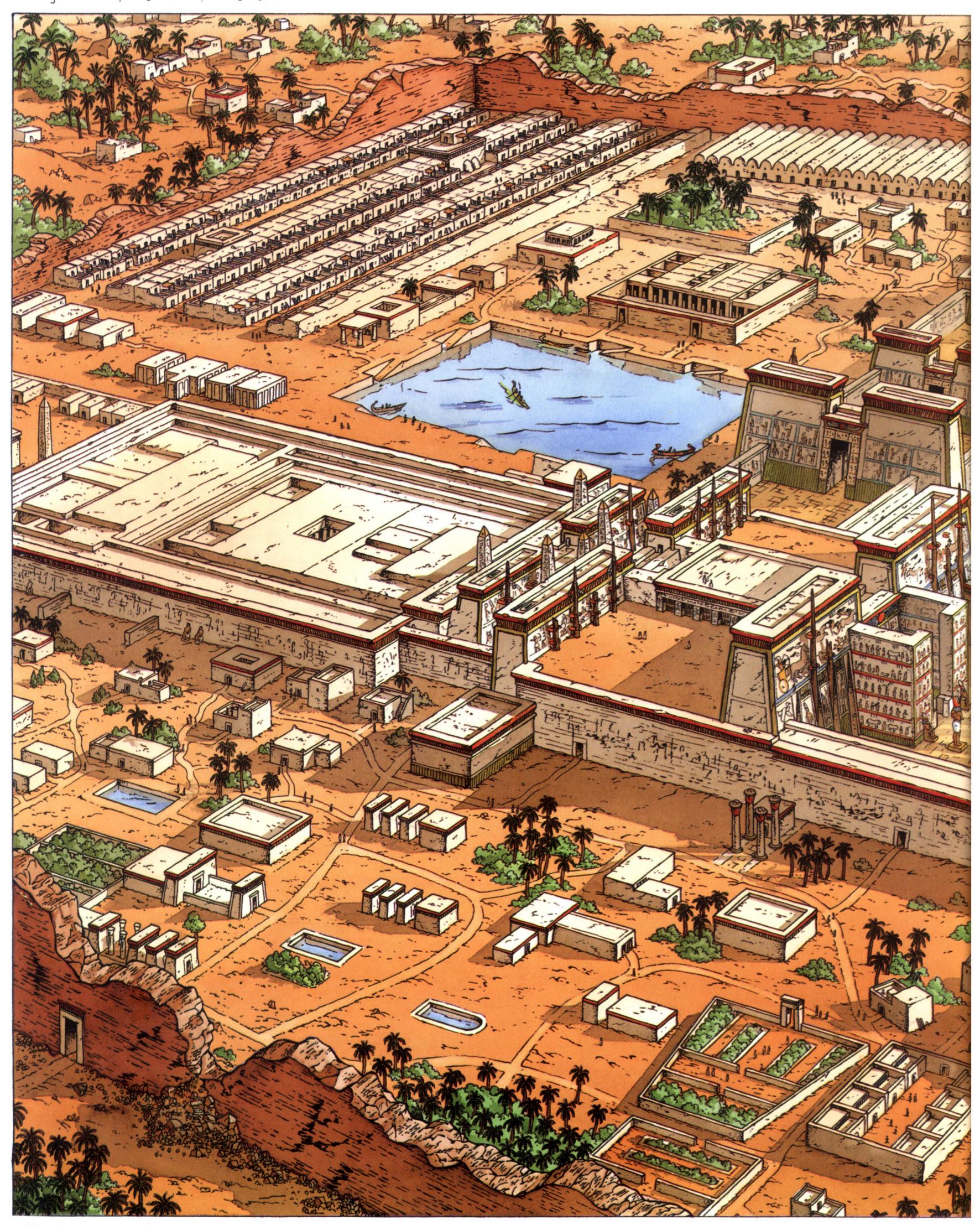




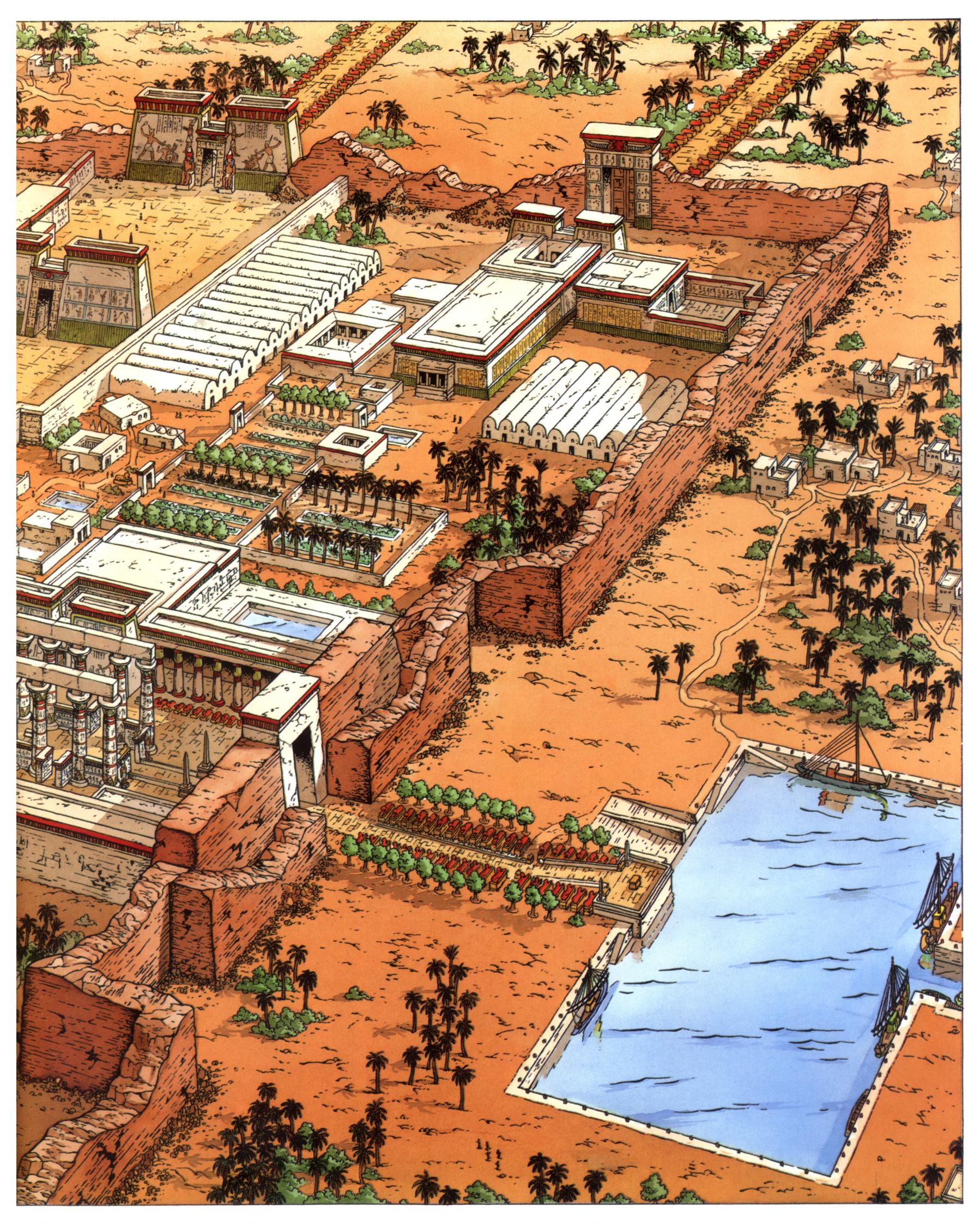




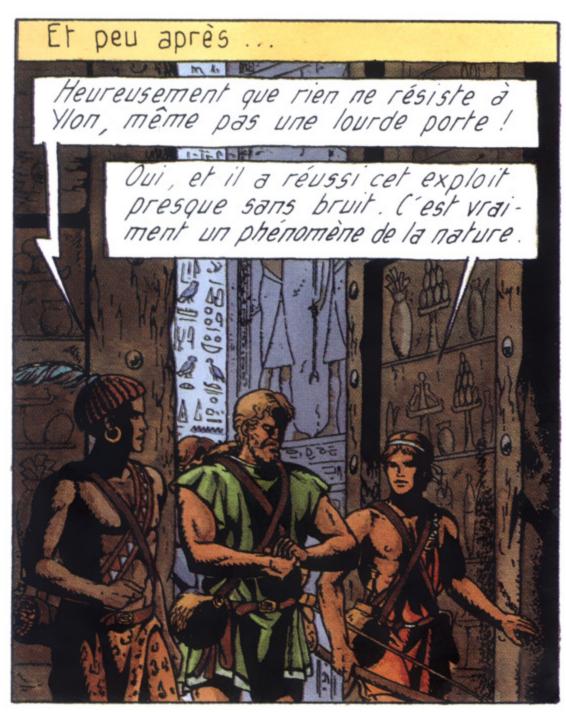
(1) Partie centrale du temple, construite par la reine Hatchepsout.



Vue de l'ensemble du sanctuaire vers le sud-est. À l'avant-plan, le bassin donnant accès au Nil, puis l'entrée principale s'ouvrant sur la cour de Taharqa et le grand pylône de Horembeb. Suivent la grande salle hypostyle, l'Ouadjit et, au fond, à gauche du lac sacré, le Saint des Saints où était enfermée la statue du dieu Amon.

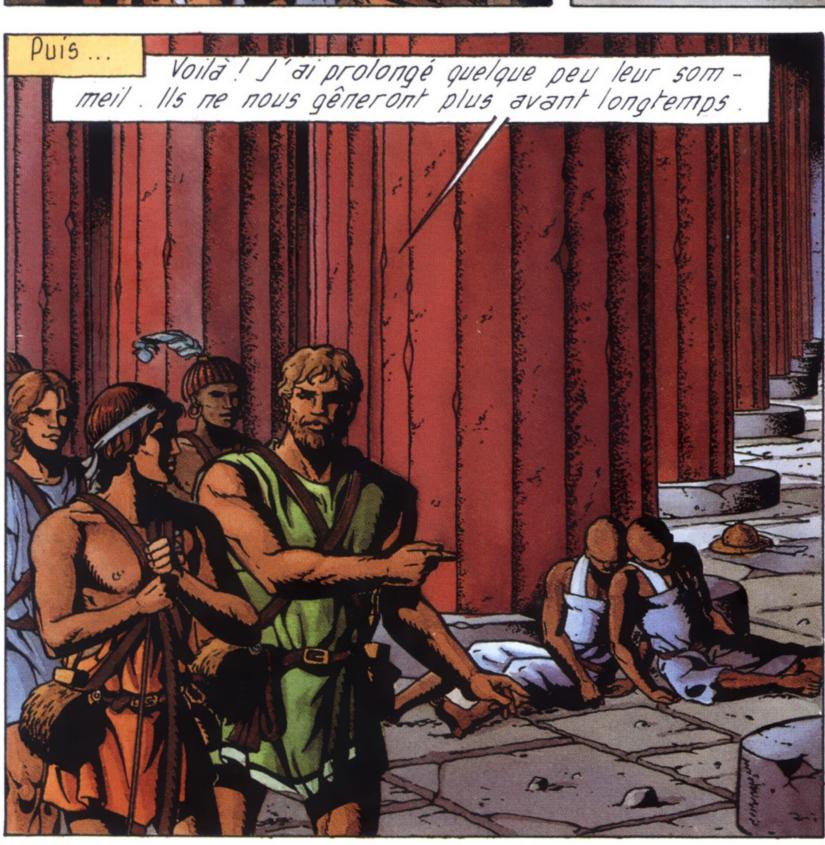


(Pour plus de détails consulter "L'Égypte-1", de la collection "Les Voyages d'Alix"). À l'époque de l'occupation perse, le temple était très abî-mé, particulièrement l'Ouadjit qui était complètement dépouillée de ses incrustations de plaques d'or.













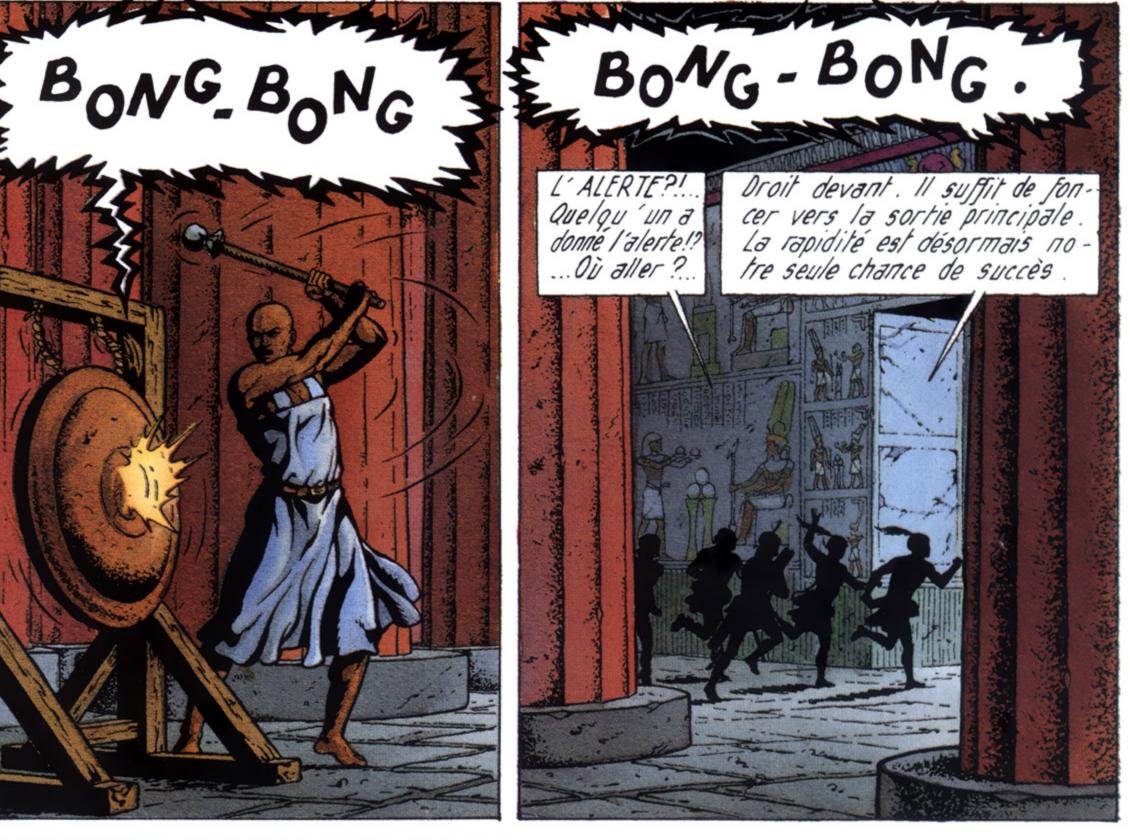


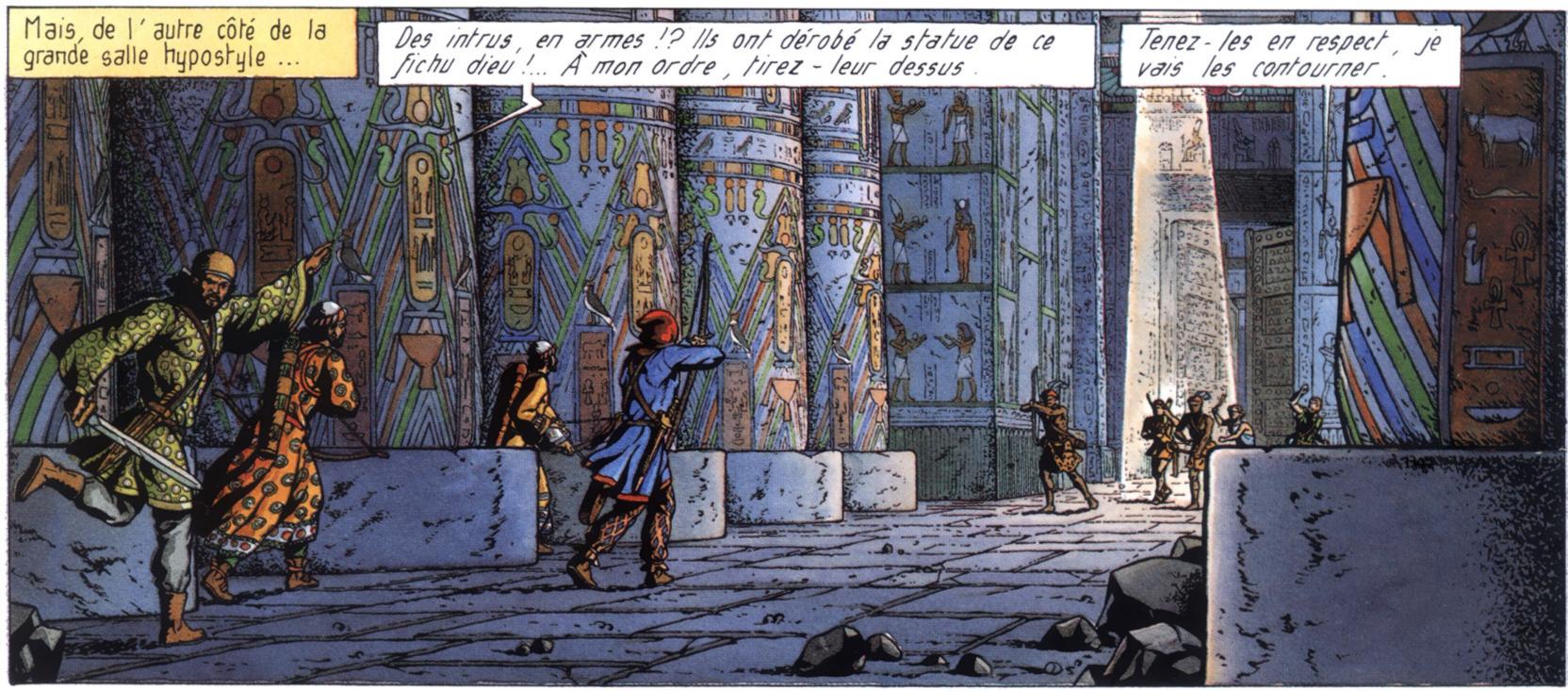


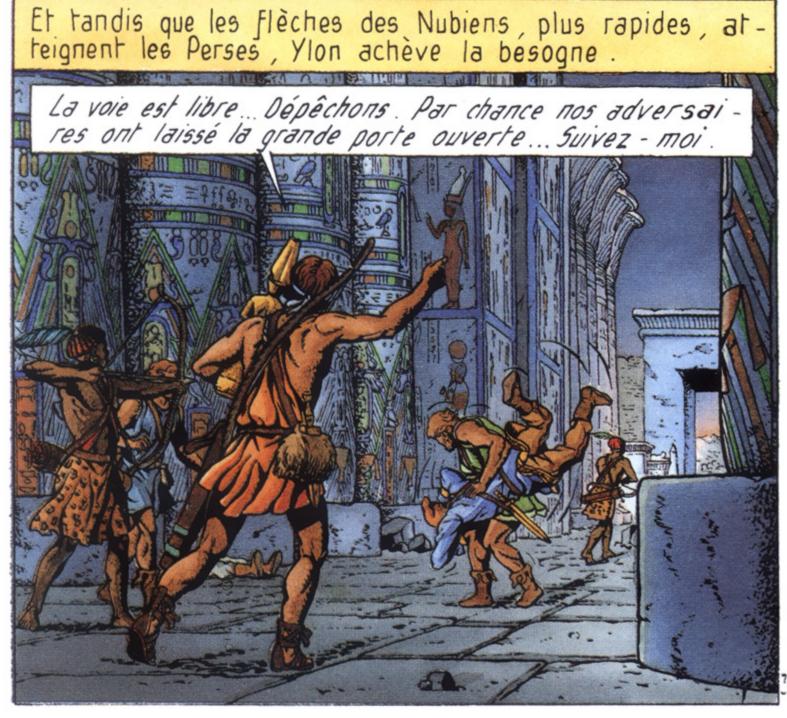




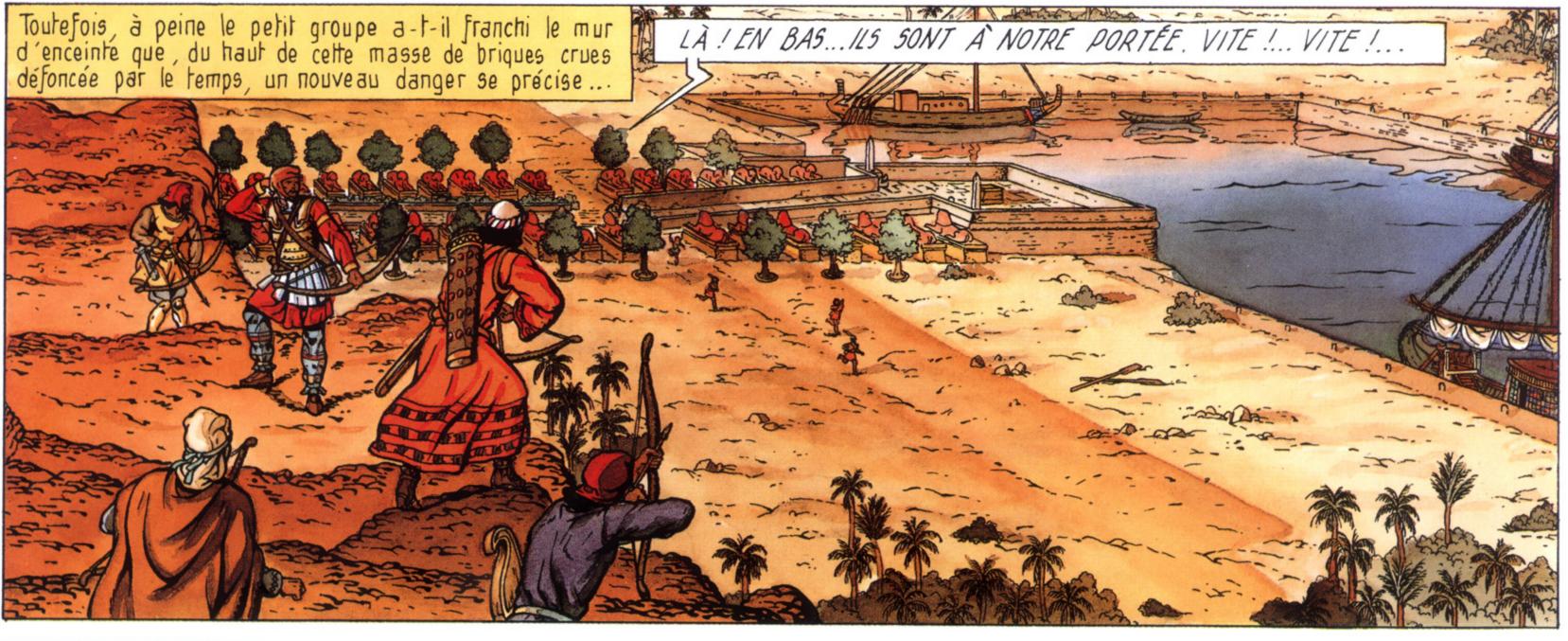




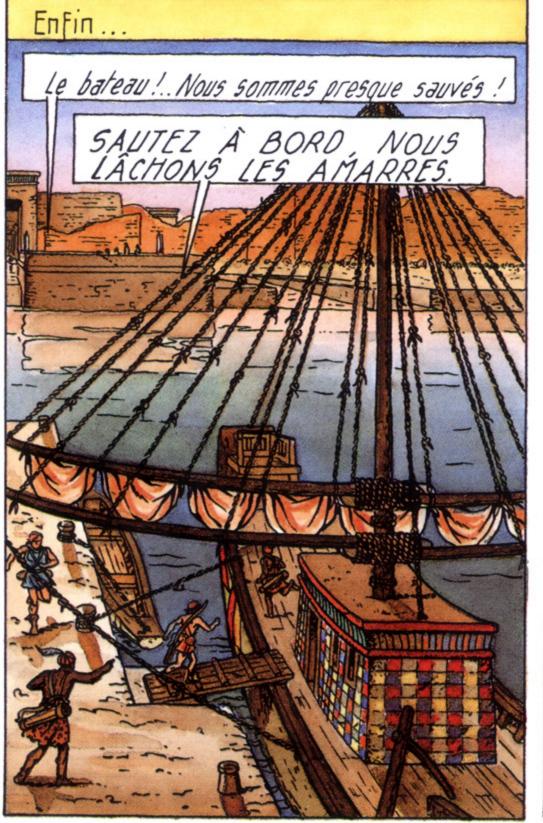




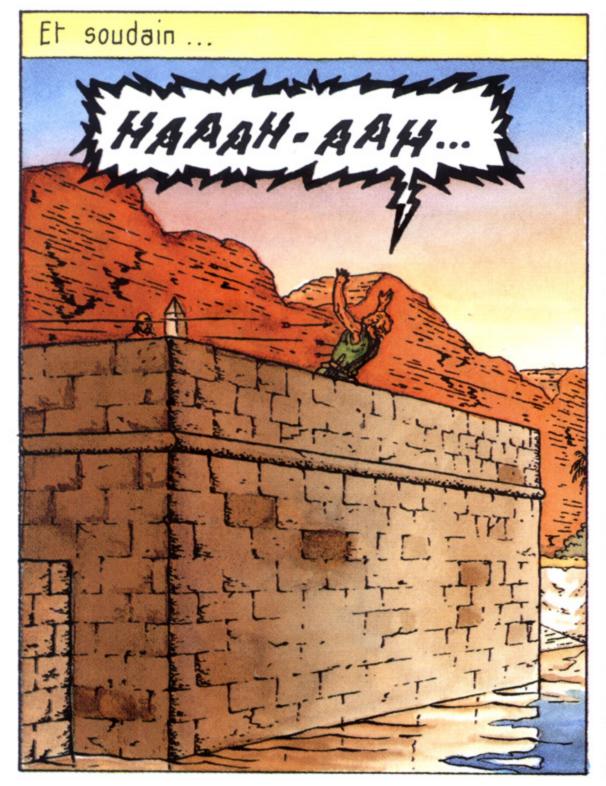


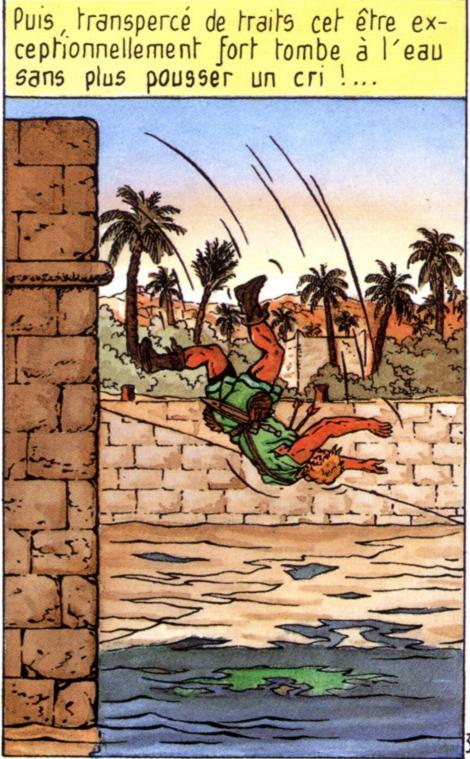














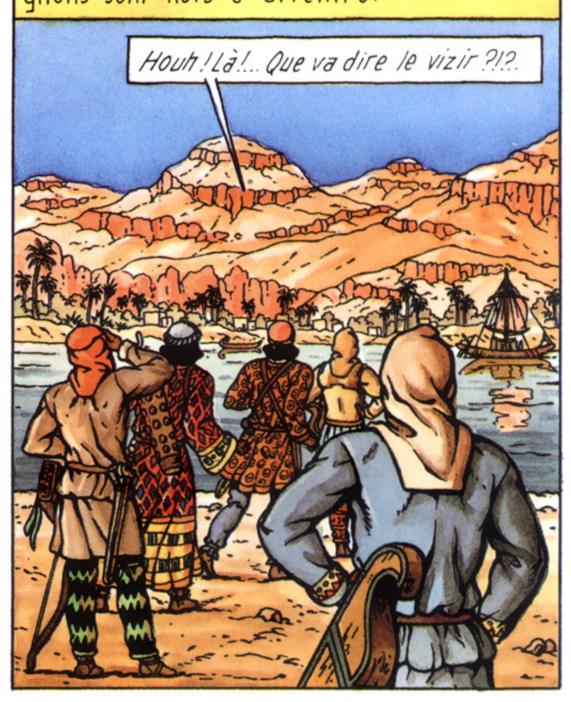
Alors que les Perses descendent précipitamment du mur d'enceinte, gênés par son mauvais état...



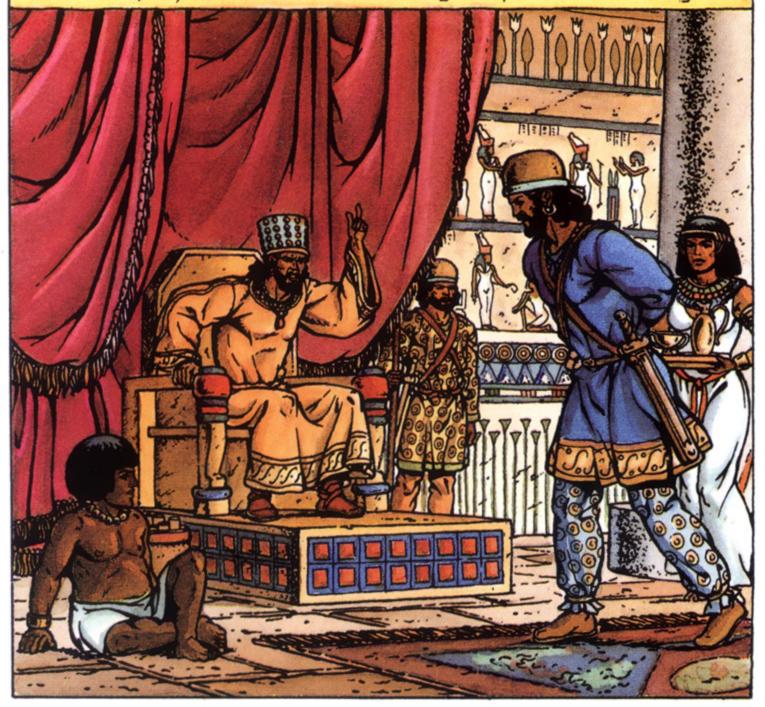
Le bateau s'éloigne rapidement comme le soleil illumine brusquement tout le site et que quelques flèches se perdent loin derrière le navire.



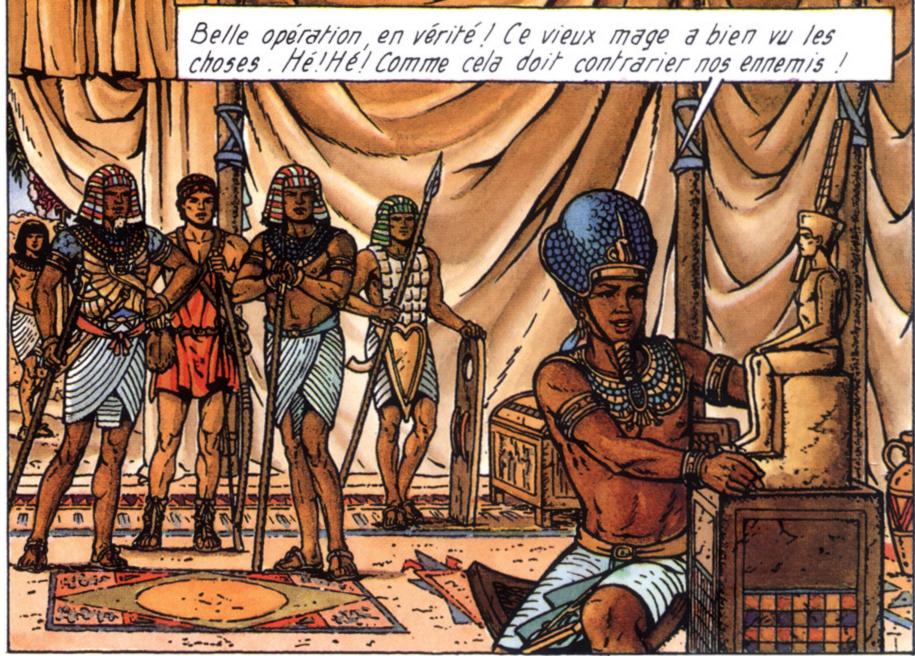
Enfin, lorsque les occupants parviennent au bord du Nil, Orion et ses compaquons sont hors d'atteinte.



En effet, quelques heures plus tard le gouverneur perse ne décolère pas, et encore moins Baalgoas qui écume de rage.



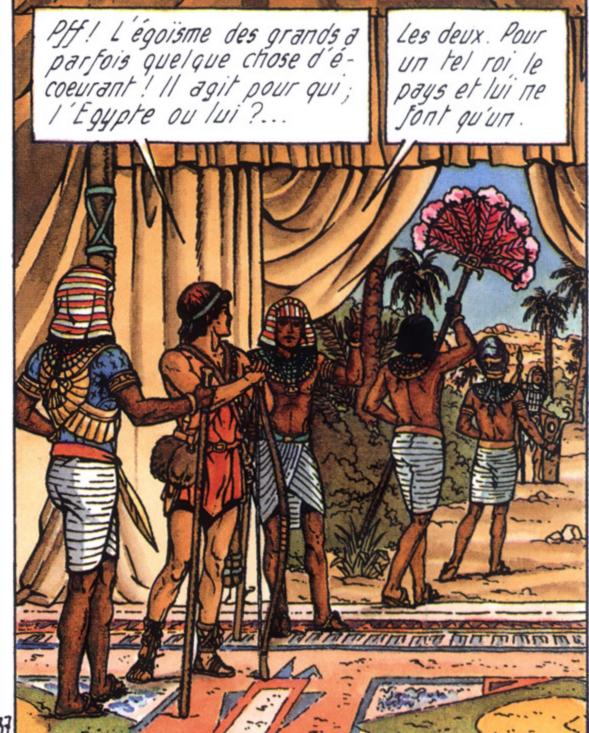
Cependant, à des lieues et des lieues de là, le pharaon Amyrthée, lui, savoure la réussite de ce coup qui lui fournit un avantage sensible et lui donne, soudain un prestige tout neuf.



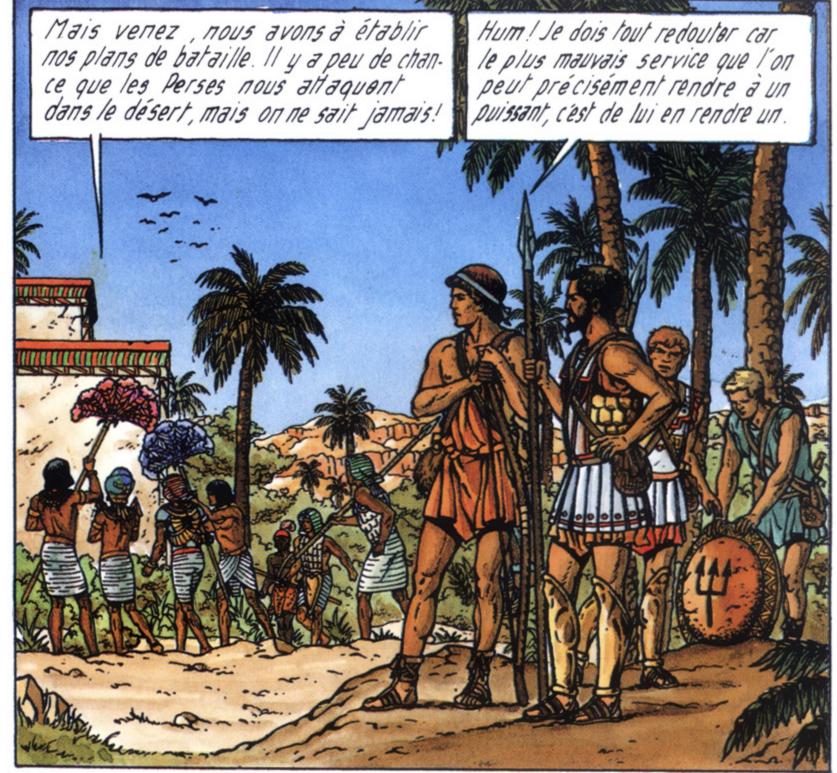
Marci mas amis, et toi tout particulière ment, Orion. Dommage que cette expédition ait coûté la vie à l'un de vos amis. Il est yrai qu'un mercenaire est payé pour cela.

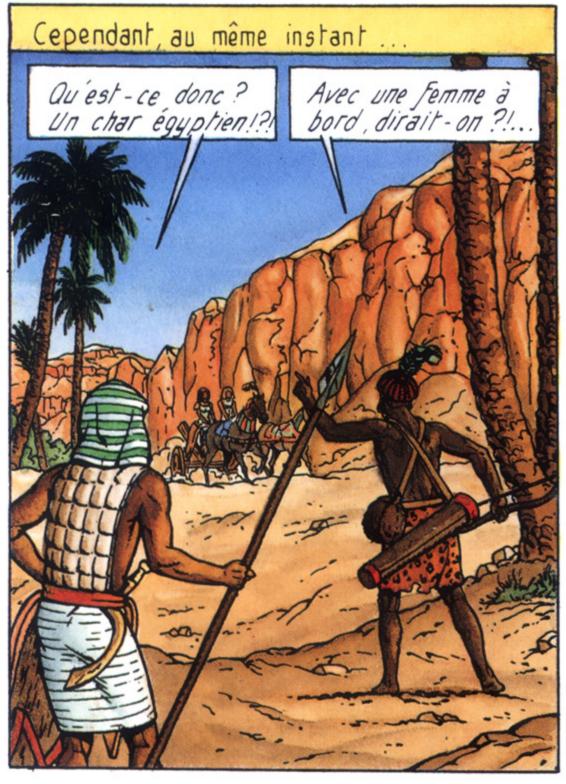
Pharaon, cette oraison funèbre frise l'ingratitude; ce compagnon, en nous couvrant, a permis notre retraite. Il était brave dévoué et courageux, sans parter de sa force.

















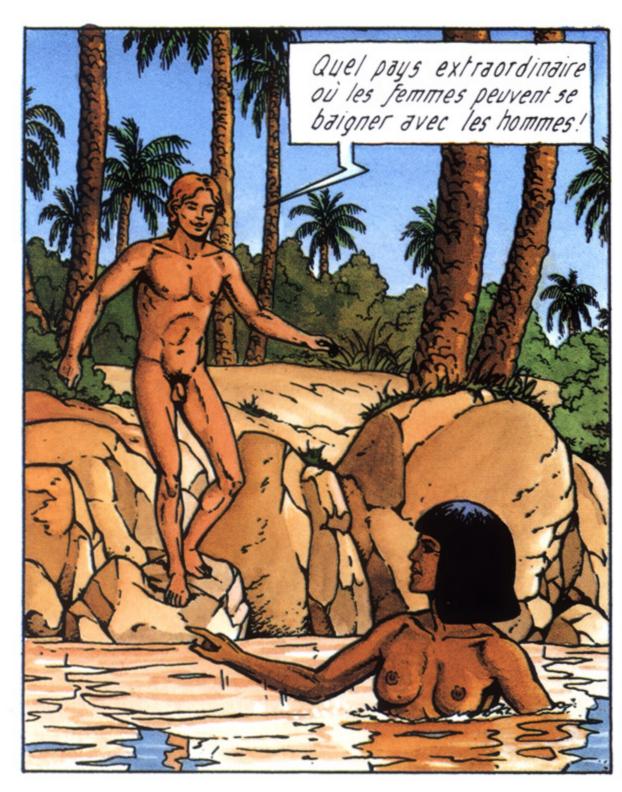
Hé! Quelle surprise! La

belle Anourka, ici! Mon

Plus beau rêve se réalise:

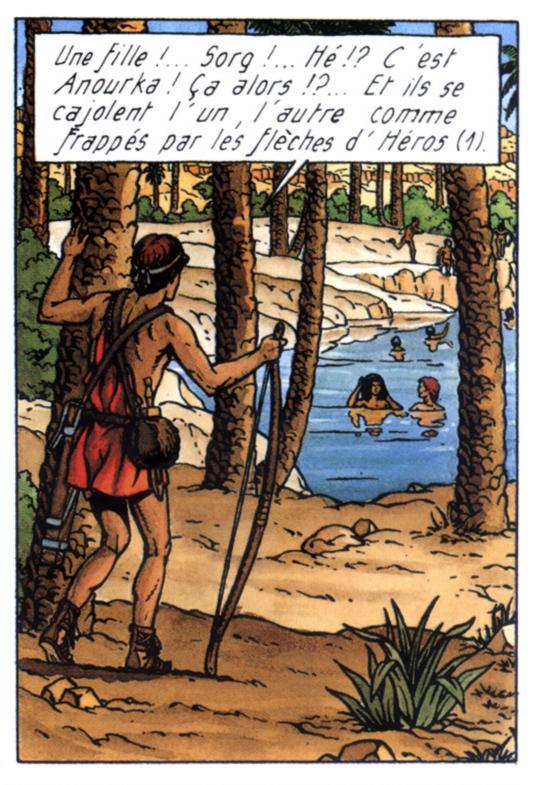






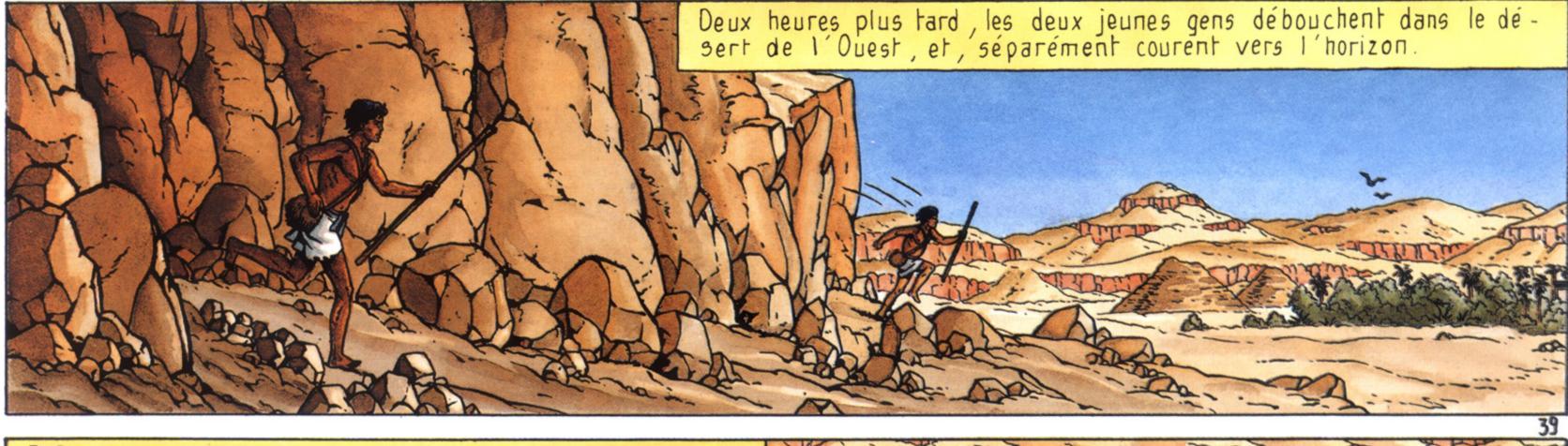








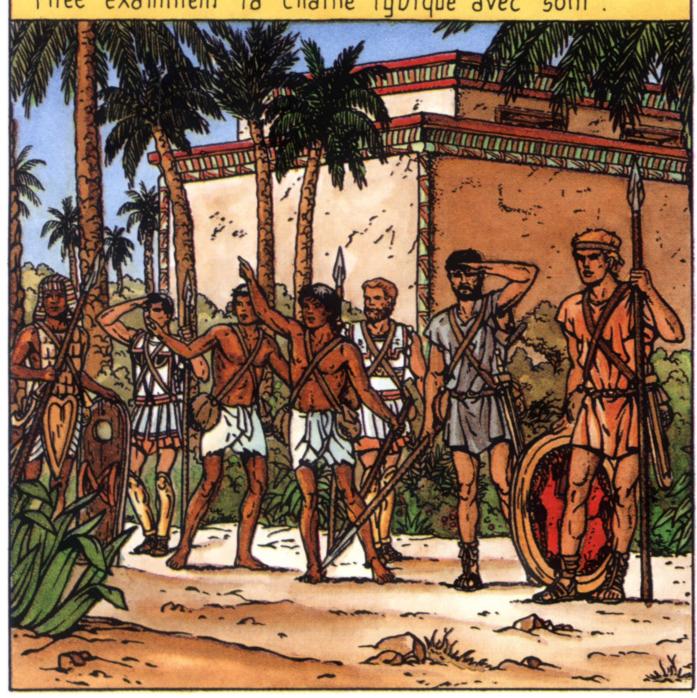


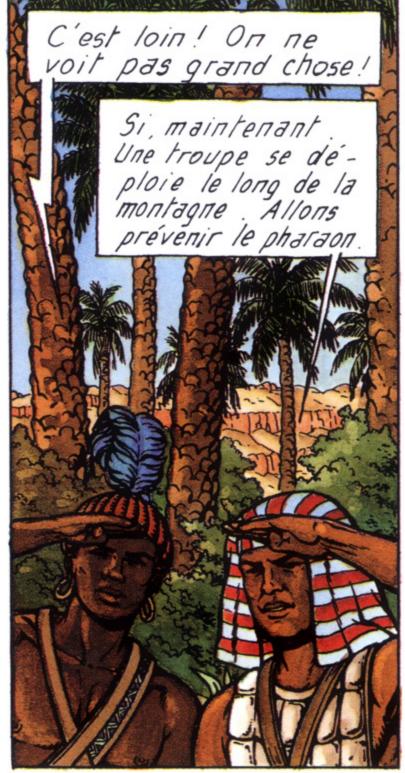


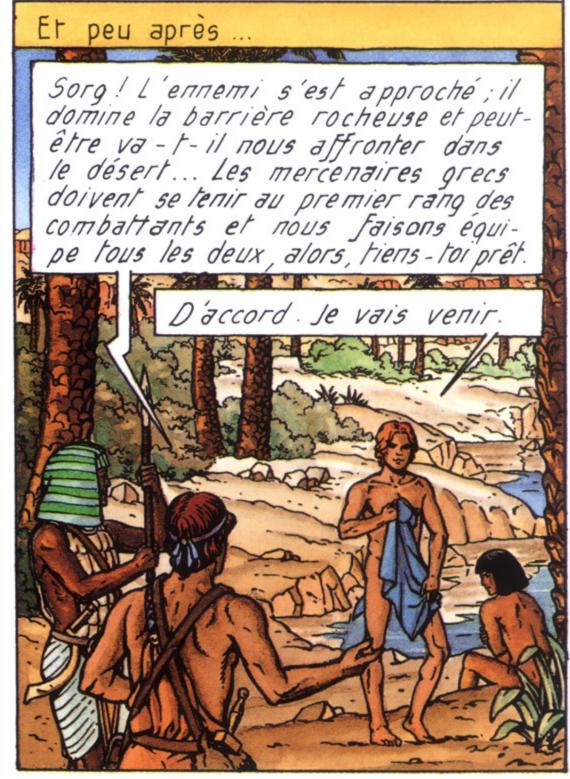


- (1) Le dieu de l'amour. (2) Dieu perse.

Enfin, au moment où les deux garçons décrivent le danger qui approche les soldats d'Amyrthée examinent la chaîne lybique avec soin.

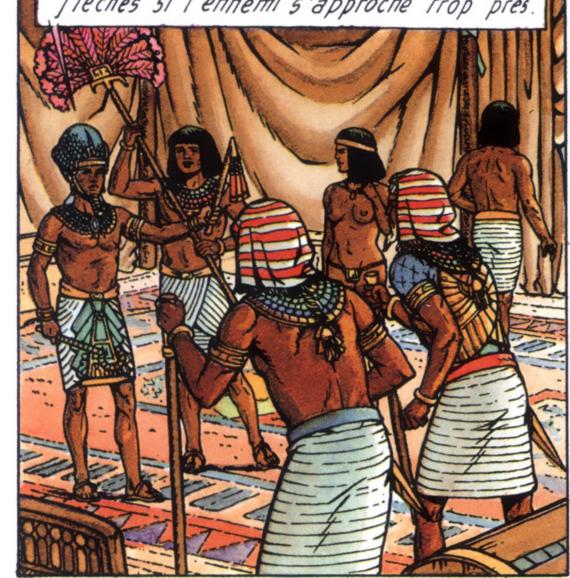






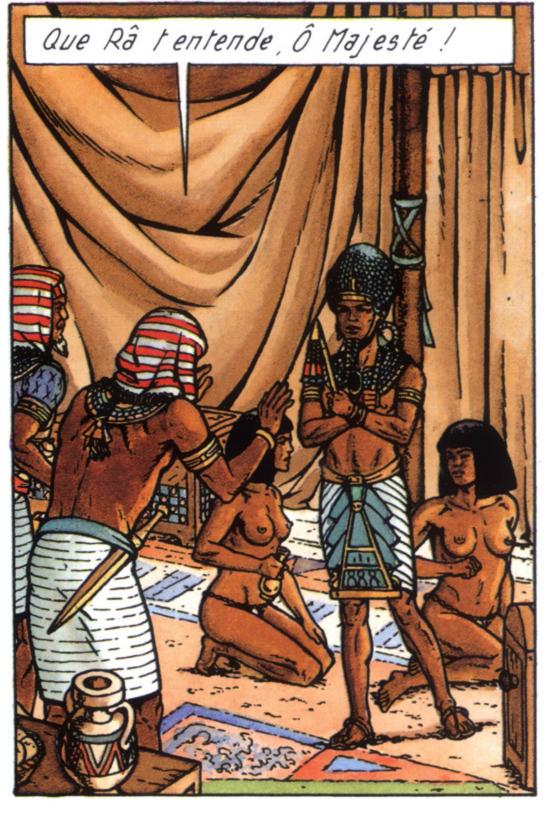
Une heure plus tard, Amyrthée donne enfin ses ordres....

Les Grecs se tiendront cent pas devant l'oasis et feront écran avec leurs boucliers. Derrière cette couverture, les Nubiens décocheront leurs flèches si l'ennemi s'approche trop près.







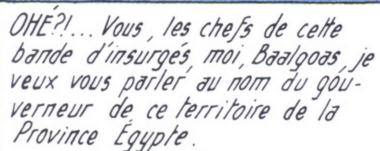


Le jour est déjà bien avancé lorsque les mercenaires grecs se disposent en écran de boucliers avec les archers nubiens derriere, prêts à tirer.











L'armée perse est venue en force voyez-le. Nos troupes sont innombrables et dominent la muraille rocheuse et nos chars s'échelonnent jusqu'à l'horizon. Par ailleurs ne croyez pas pouvoir vous échapper dans le désert.



Car ces guerriers là-bas, qui sont venus du fond de l'Arabie, sont capables de vous poursuivre sans presque rien boire jusqu'aux limites des sables.



Soyez raisonnables et rendez-moi la statue du dieu
Amon que des impurs et des
sacrilèges ont volée dans le
grand temple d'Ipetsout (1)
au scandale et à la colère de
toute la population. En échange, vous aurez la liberté
de replier vos troupes vers le



Moi , Amourset , général de cette armée , je ne peux te répondre mais mon seigneur , sa majesté Amyrthée , va venir parlementer avec toi.

Quelle majesté?! Quel souverain!? Il n'y a qu'un seul monarque qui règne sur ces terres,
c'est le Roi des Rois représenté, ici, par le vice roi Khalazar.

Cependant en dépit de la présence d'un roitelet dont l'existence est une insulte à notre royauté, je suis disposé à écouter les propositions afin d'éviter un carnage inutile. Hum! Si vraiment vous ne voulez pas me restituer la statuette, que comptez-vous faire?

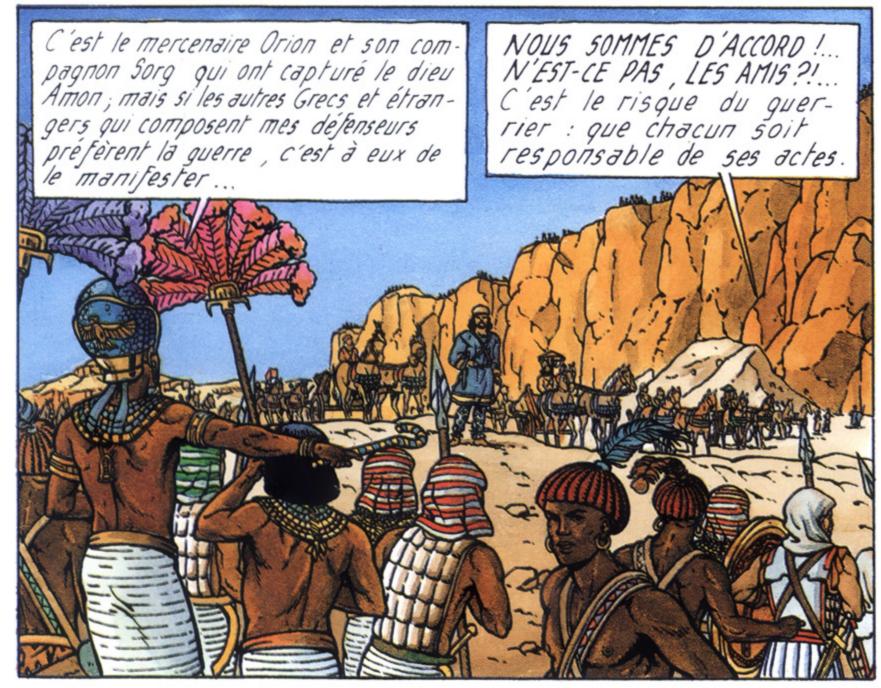


Mais te livrer les ravisseurs du dieu.

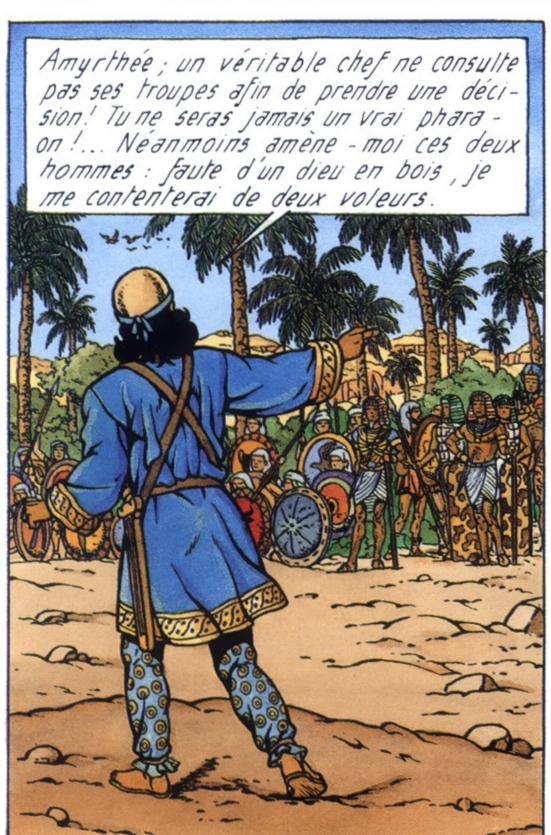
Ce sont des étrangers, des Grecs qui
sont à notre solde pour qui cette
divinité n'est qu'un morceau de
bois doré ... Si possible épargne - les
et étends ta mansuétude sur eux.

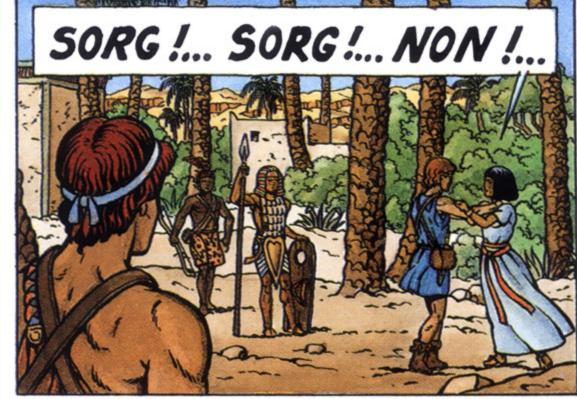


(1) Karnak en égyptien

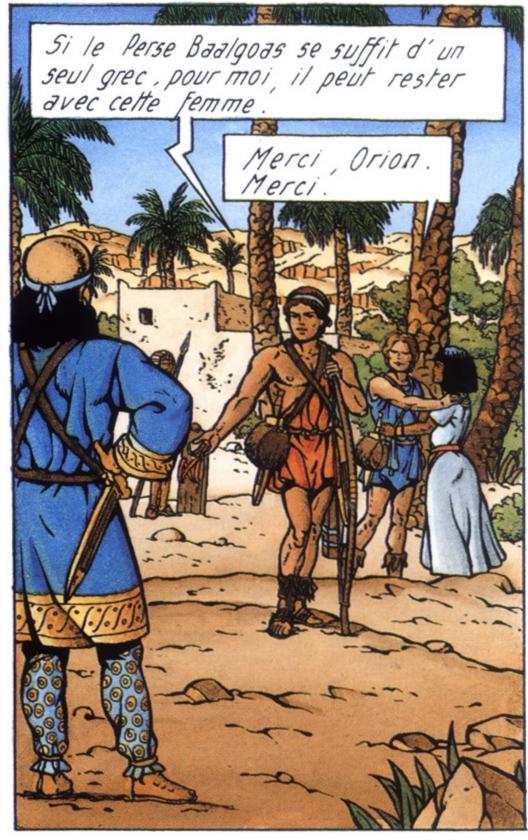




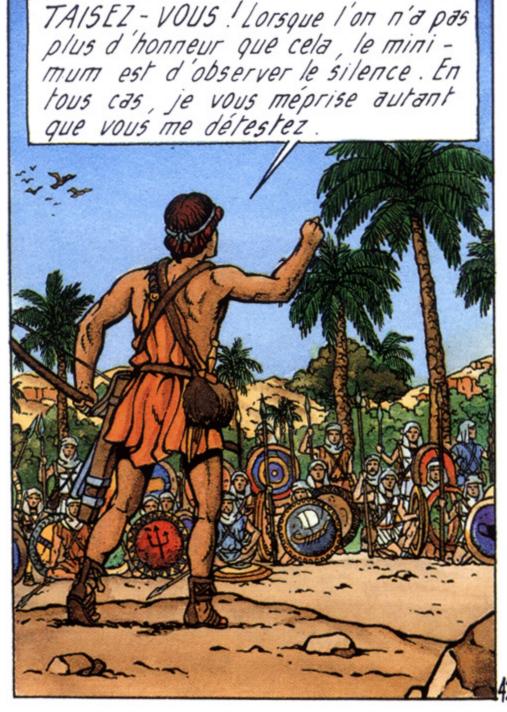


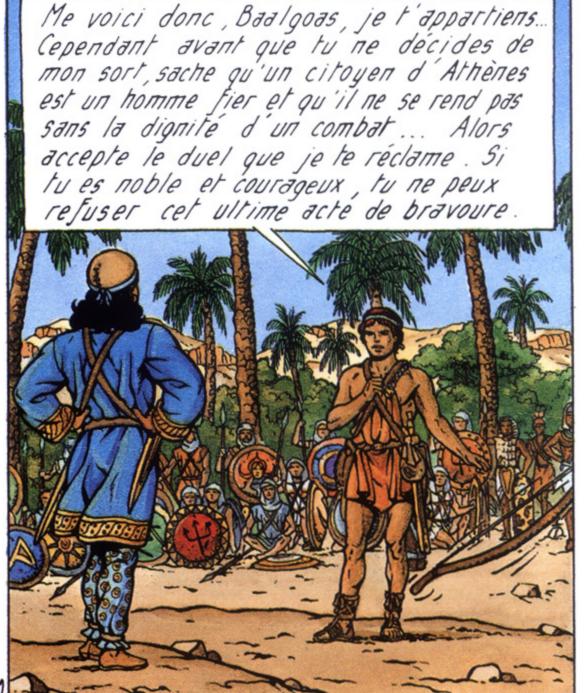


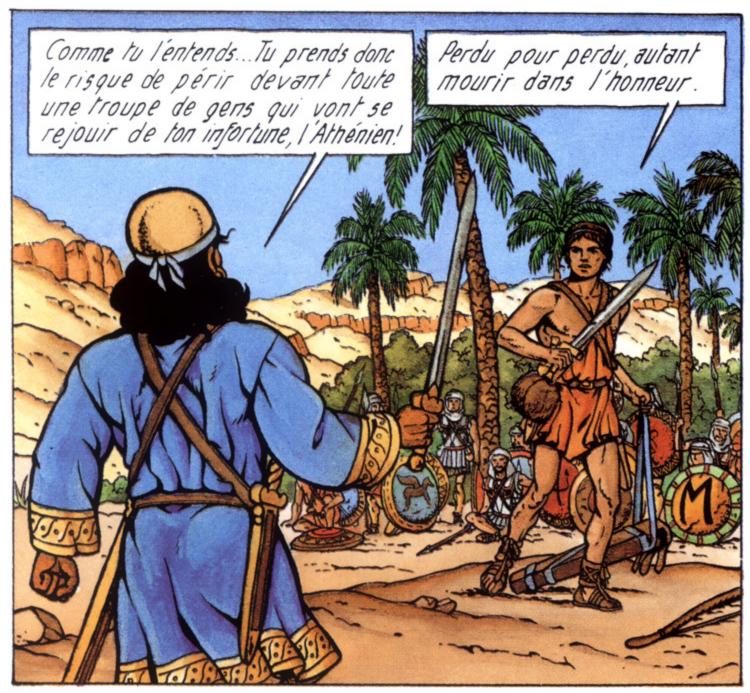


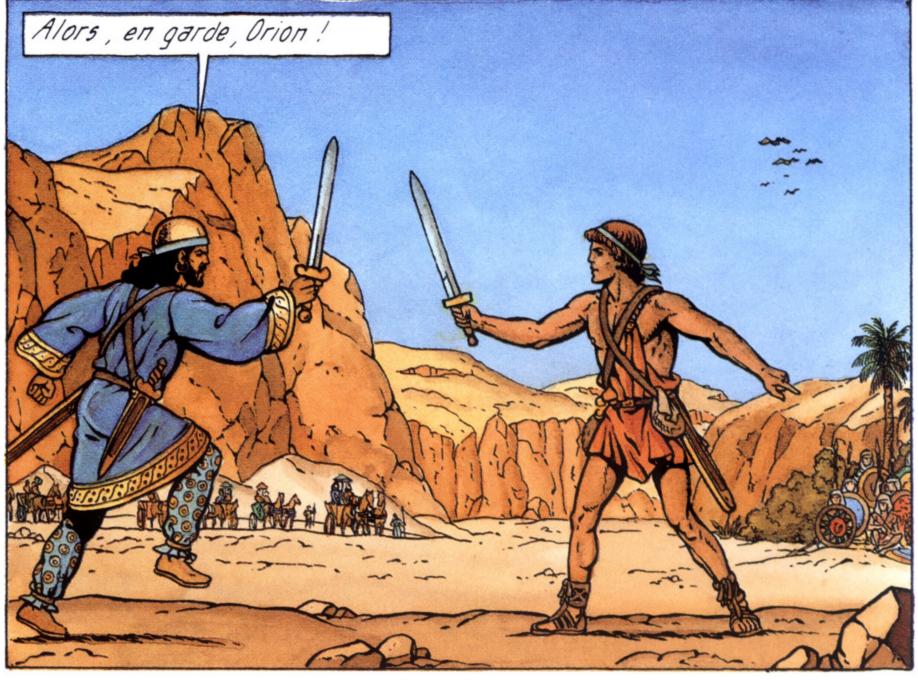


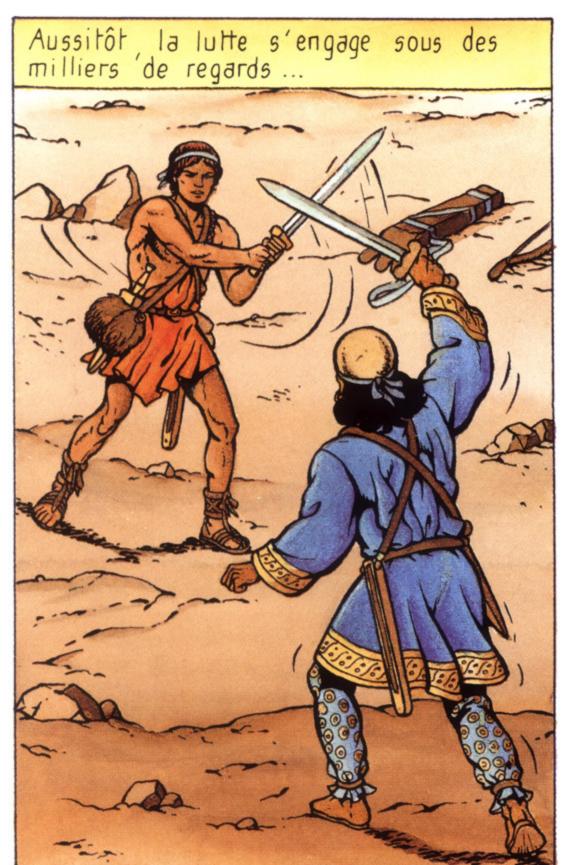


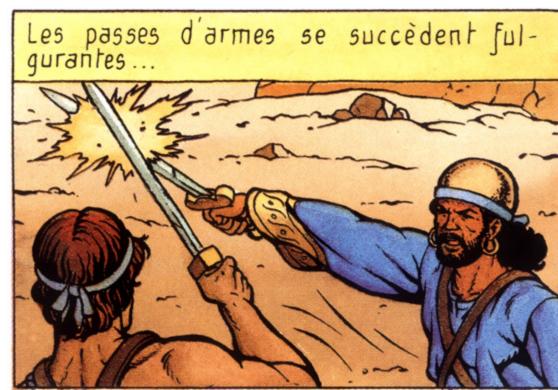






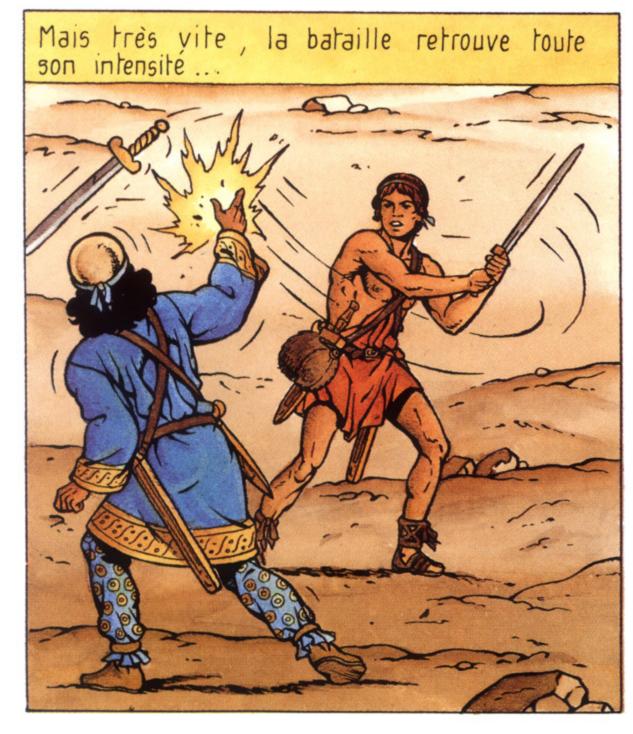




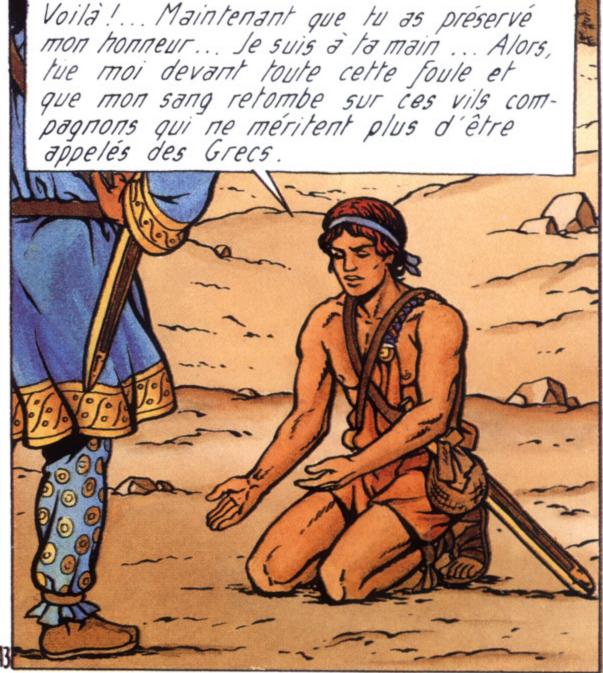


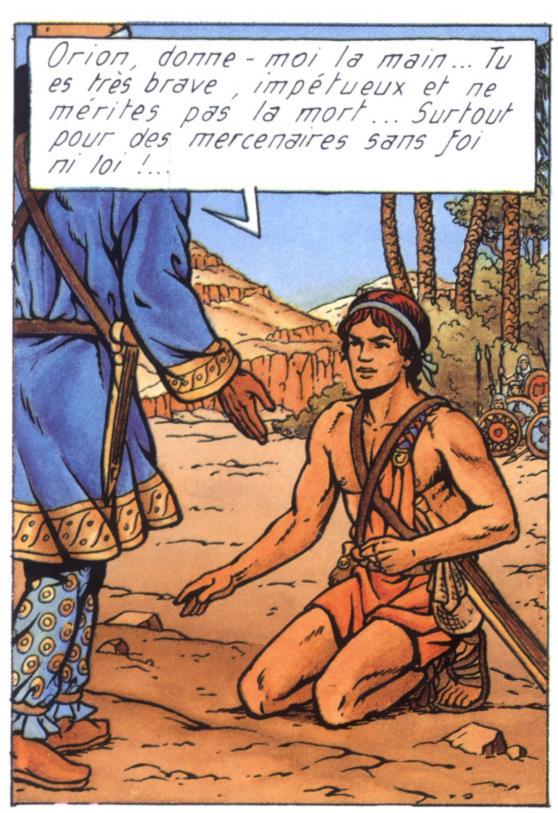




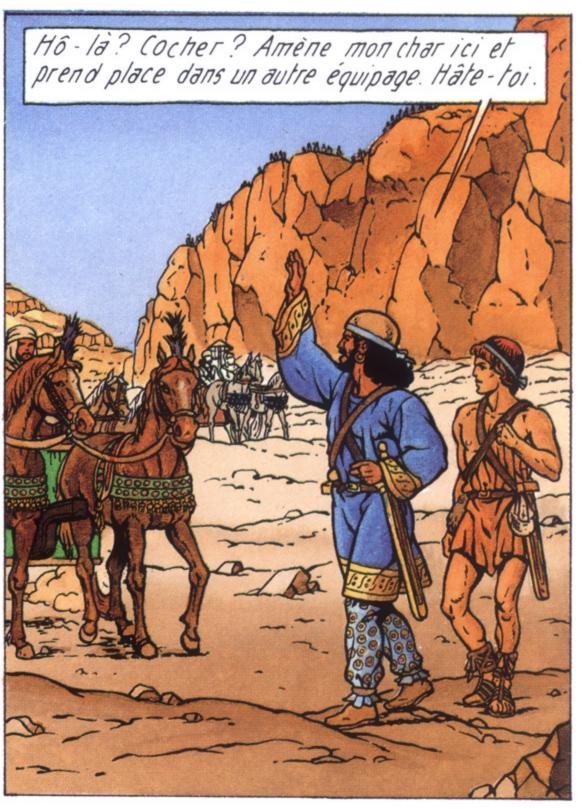


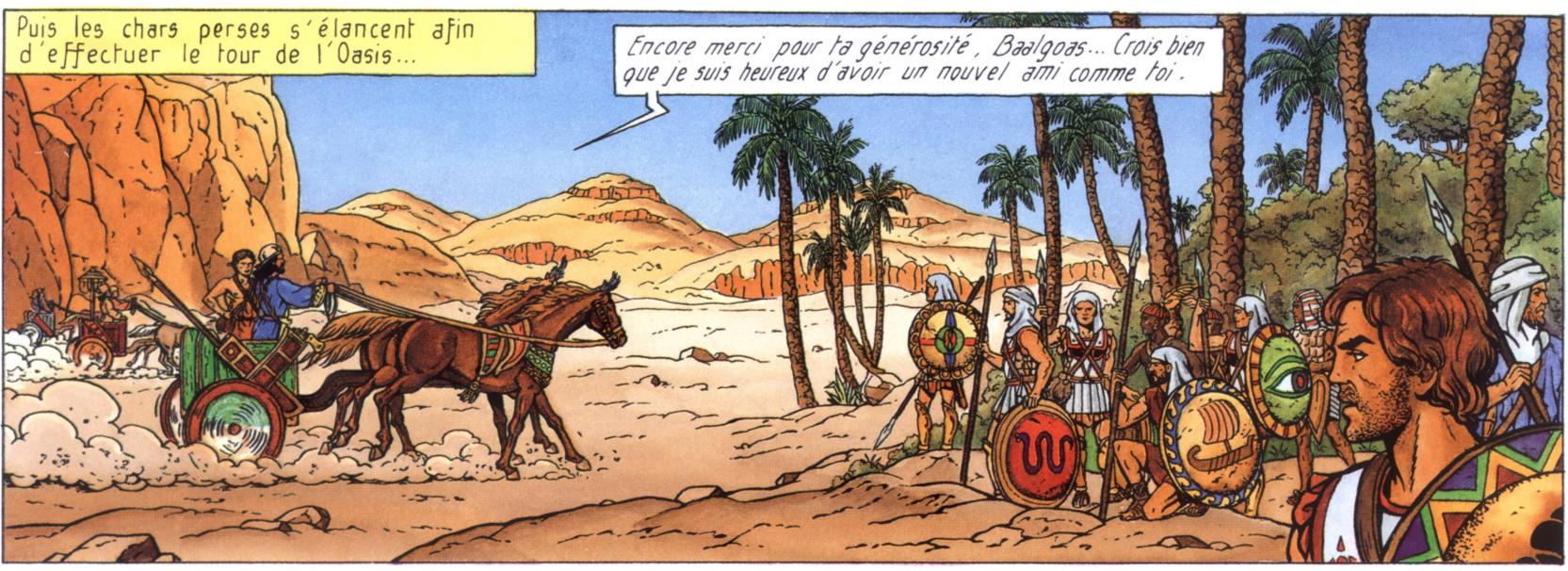


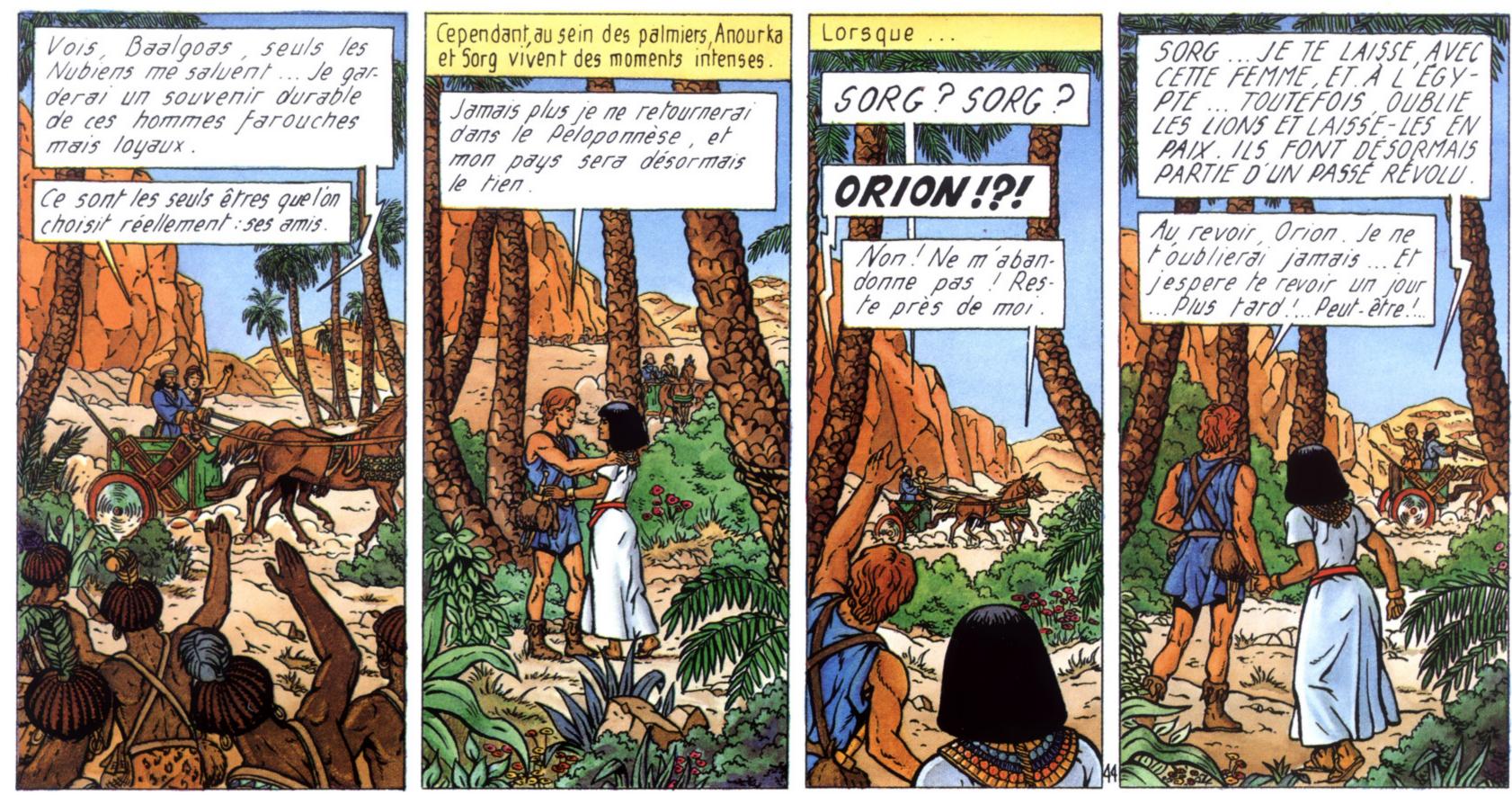














Cependant, au sein des palmiers, Anourka





